# Gambling Apocalypse

# Kaiji

1

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:1 Hope

Chapter:2 A Crossroads

Chapter:3 Pitch Black

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# Janken(Rock-Paper-Scissors)rules

**Paper wins a stone.**

**Stone wins scissors.**

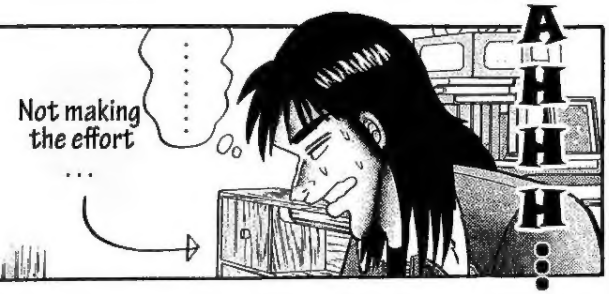
**Scissors win paper.**

The future



is in our hands...

The future is in our hands
Chapter 1: Hope

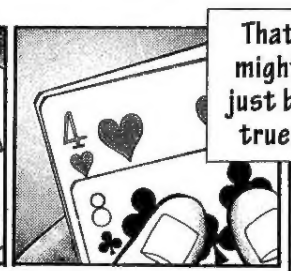

Not making the effort
. . .
. . . . . .
AHHHH...

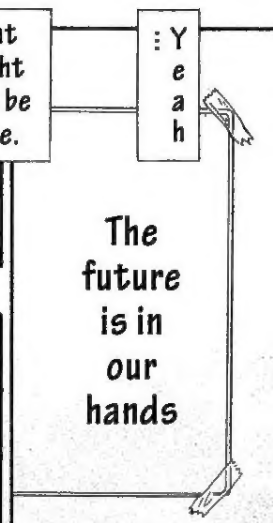
...but I went and lost again ...
I'm not even working ...

I lost again ...

Because they've had theirnoses to the grindstone...
The future is in our hands
But for people who haven't been making the effort, those words just sound bitter...

...that future is a bright one for everyone.
That doesn't mean...
But ...


That might just be true.


Yeah
The future is in our hands

Why ?

I bet they've got bright futures waiting.
Habu.
Daté
Nomo.

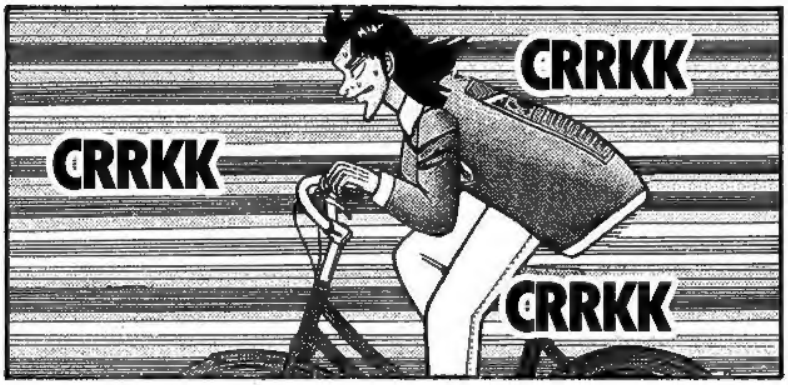
THUMP
HHH a a a ! ! !
HHH a a a ! ! !

Loser: Gambling
: H e h e h e
: H e h e h e
FAR EAST AIR FO

Crying won't help anything ...!
Wh... What am I doing ...?
SNIFF SNIFF
I just...

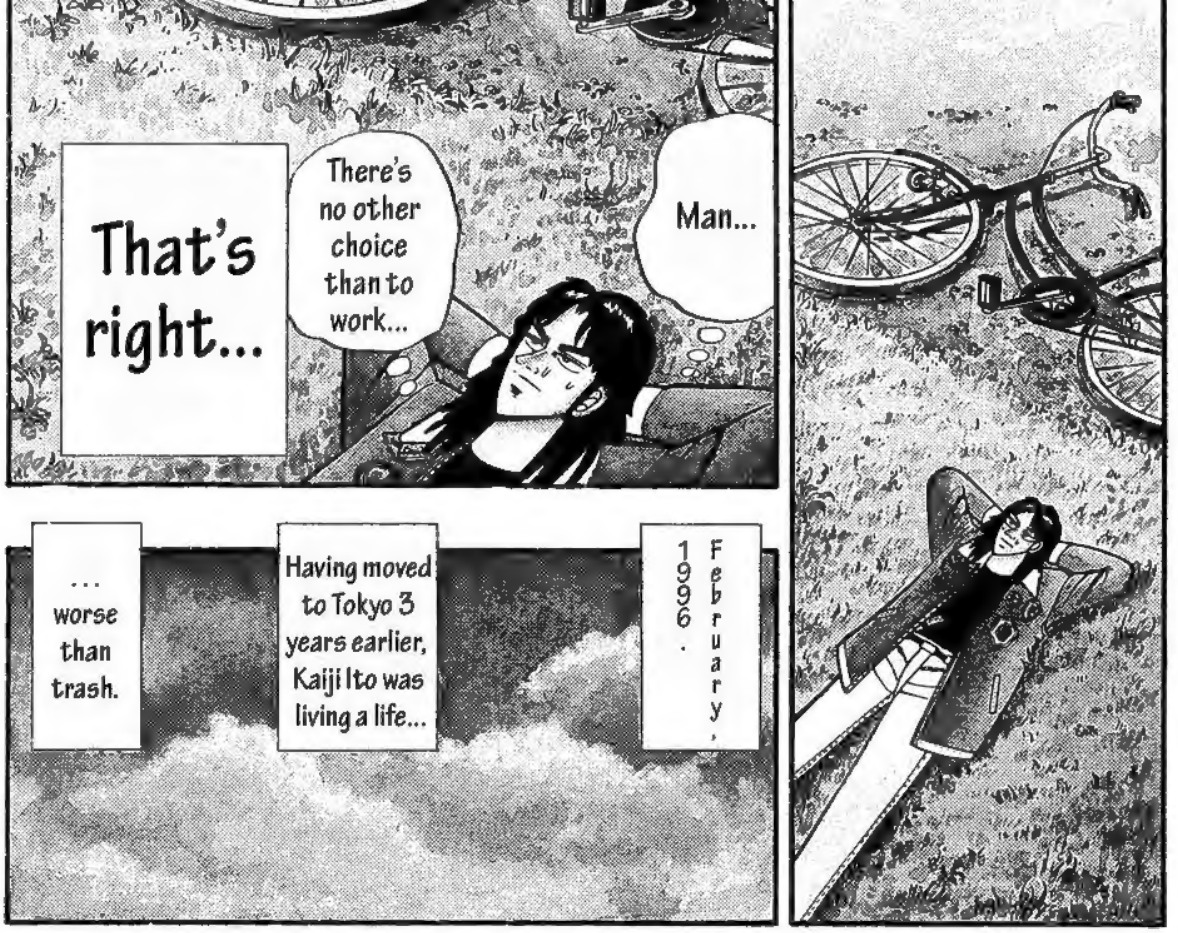
H a :

What ...?


CRRKK
CRRKK
CRRKK

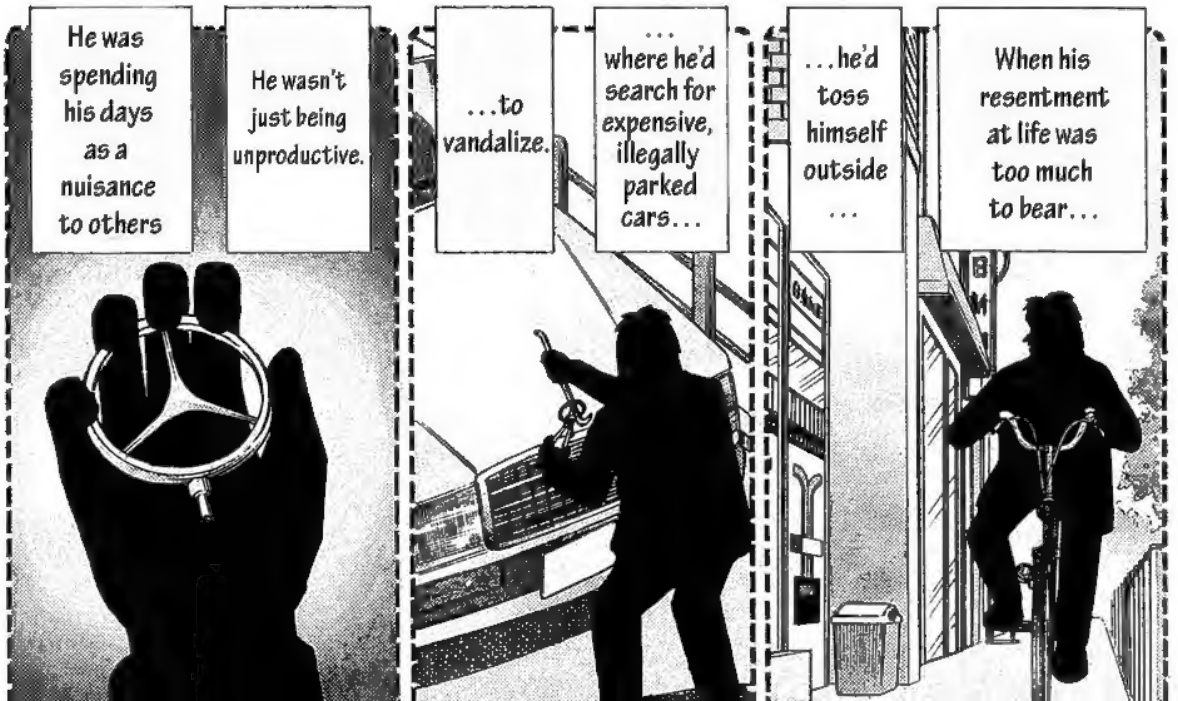
...out of this predicament ...
There's just gotta be a way...

HMPH
Man!


That's right...
There's no other choice than to work...
Man...


... worse than trash.
Having moved to Tokyo 3 years earlier, Kaiji Ito was living a life...
February, 1996.

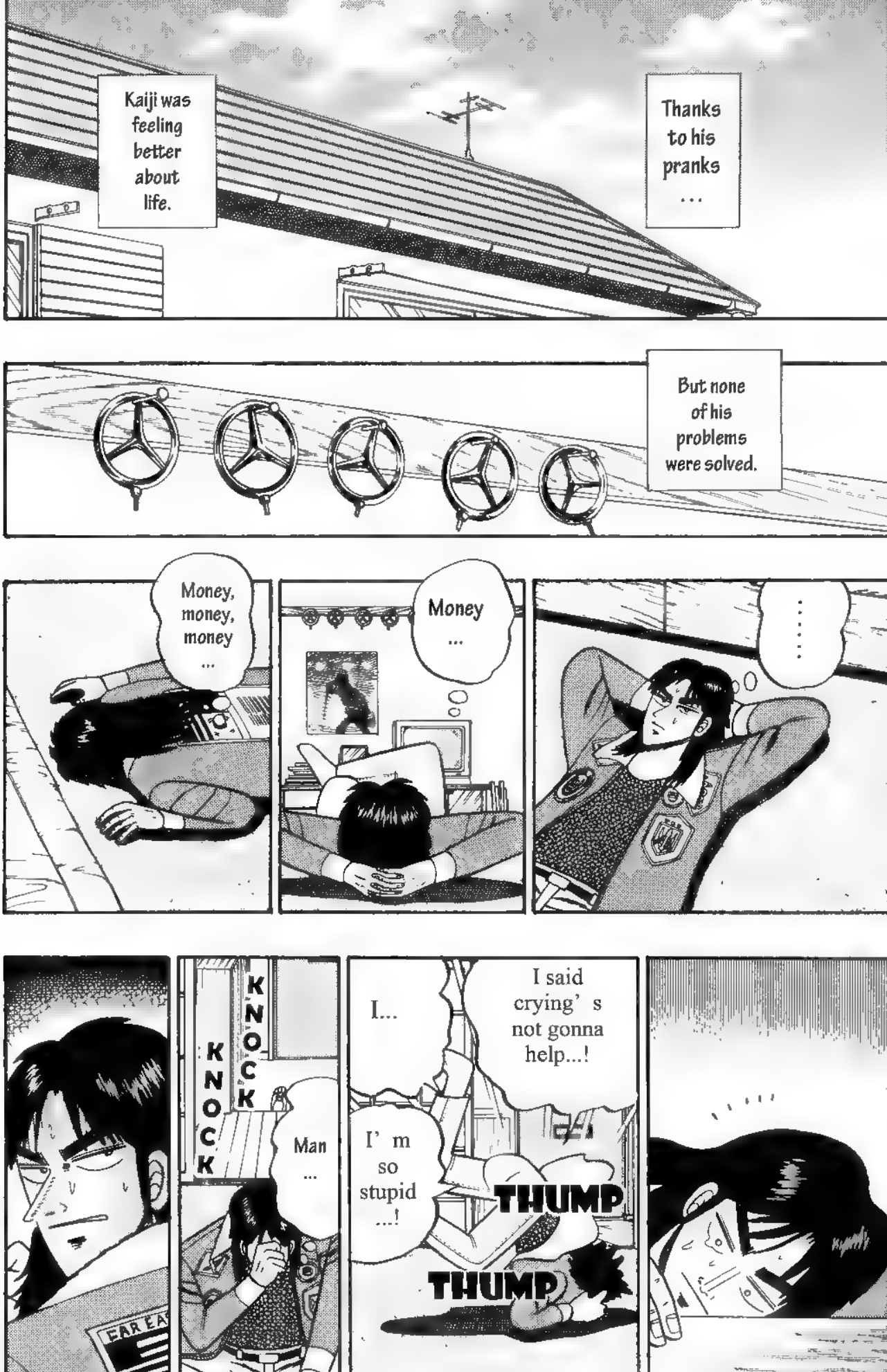
And...
Days full of cheap liquor and low-stakes games.
...he hadn't worked a single day.
Since the New Year began...


He was spending his days as a nuisance to others
He wasn't just being unproductive.
...to vandalize.
... where he'd search for expensive, illegally parked cars...
...he'd toss himself outside ...
When his resentment at life was too much to bear...

Today,
Kaiji couldn't find any of...
...his favorite Benzes...
...and was making his dejected way home.
.....

Hehehe
This one'll do...
SKRRRCH
THUNK THUNK THUNK-
SKREECH SKREECH SKREECH
Hehehe
Hehehe
SKREECH SKREEEECH
WHOOSH

Had enough ...?
How'day like that ...!?
Hehehe...
Anyone driving a car like this has got to be no good.
Getting rich off our backs ...
Stepping on the little guy ...
Chalk it up to karma.
Your bad deeds just caught up to you...
He's just getting what he deserves ...
I bet he doesn't even pay taxes ...
Later!
WHOOOOSH


Kaiji was feeling better about life.
Thanks to his pranks ...
But none of his problems were solved.
Money, money, money ...
Money ...
.....
KNOCK KNOCK
Man ...
I...
I said crying' s not gonna help...!
I' m so stupid ...!
THUMP
THUMP

FORCE
Yeah!? Whaddya want...!?

That's me...
Uh... Yeah...
You're friends with Takeshi Furuhata, right?
Kaiji Ito?
Your name is Kaiji?
Ummm ... What is it...?
I mean ...
Er ...

I guess you could say... We're not actually friends.
But I haven't seen him since then...
I did work with him abou a year ago...
Eh... Umm...
古畑
Furuhata ...?
FORCE

What ...?
It's not the kind of story you can tell standing in a doorway.
Mind if we talk inside?
Hmph...
What did he do?
...he'll see all my stolen trophies...
If he comes inside...
Oh no!
No... I mean... Y-You can't...
I see ...
We could go eat!
We oughta go somewhere else... I know!
For all I know, one of those ornaments could've been his.
See... The thing is...
I'll bring around the car.
Well then ...
Fine by me ...
.....

HMPH
.....
SLAM
I gotta hide these...
But first thing's first,
THUNK
Phew...
I don't know what this is all about...
CLANK
CLANK
Man oh man!

Yeah...
Thanks...
Yeah..
...
That's
right
...
Dmmd
BOB
DOB
BOOB
.....
.....
S...
Sure...
Until
someone
comes out
we're gonna
have to
wait.
Urrkk!
What
!?
My
car's
got
a flat.
Wha
...?
Out
of luck,
Kaiji.

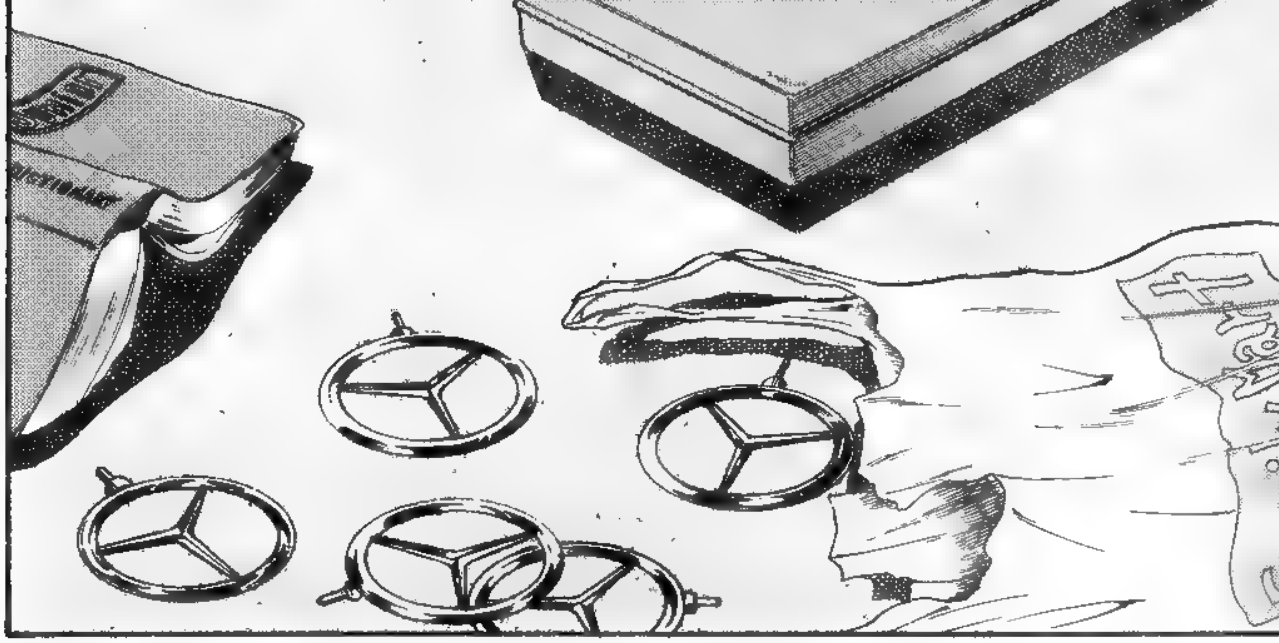
Respectable adults don't loaf around on street corners.
It doesn't look good.
Are you cold ...?
Wh-Why ...
Not really.
Man...
.....
THUMP
What !?
You wanna go inside?
O-Of course ...
I don't want us to stand out...
Not at all !
Sorry to intrude.
Thanks
Help yourself ...
CLINK CLINK

... Real shame ...
Mmhmm
All the no-good vandals in this world.
It's a shame.
You know ...

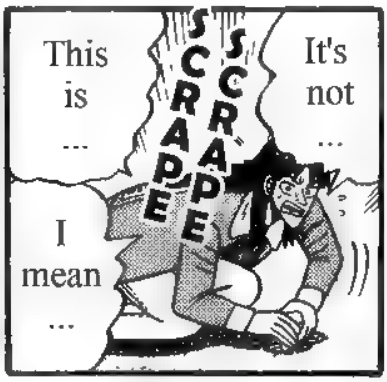
CLINK

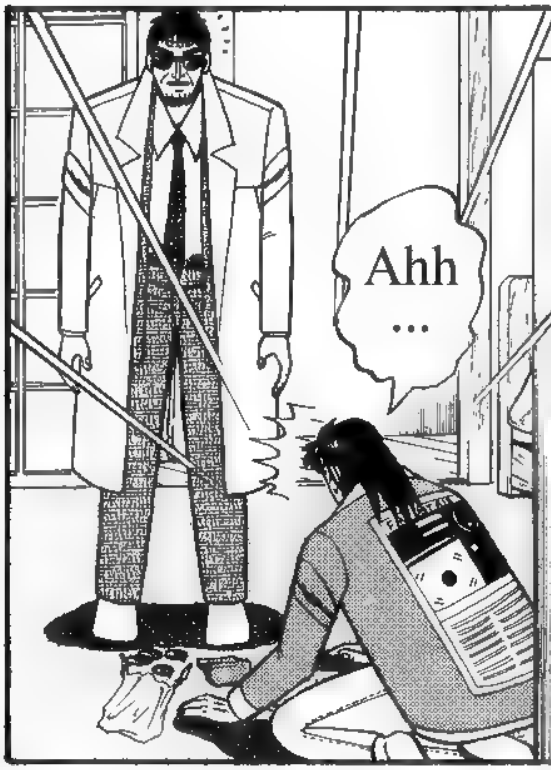
HURRK
It was you...!

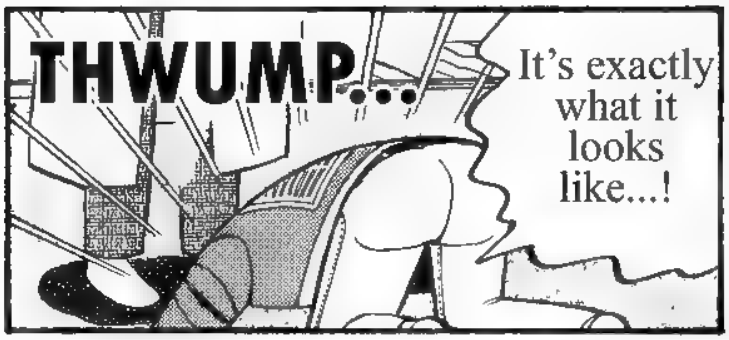
H-Hold on a second...!
Whaddya mean!?
H…
COUGHGUCOUGHGUCH
I didn't say anything about vandals.
...is that I had a flat.
All I said ...
You got it all wrong ...!
Augghh ...!
THUMP
THSMASH
CRASH
Eek ...!
GRRRR
THUMP
Just... H-H-H. . Hold on...
J-Just ...
TH-THUMP...
Er…

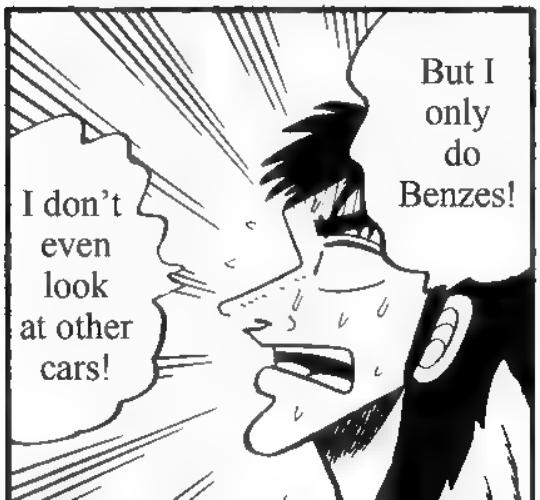


What do I mean ...?


This is ...
I mean ...
It's not ...
SCRAPE
SCRAPE


Ahh ...


THWUMP...
It's exactly what it looks like...!


I don't even look at other cars!
But I only do Benzes!

... vandalizing cars...
It's true, I've been going around ...

Wha ...?
How did you know ...?
Please believe me...!
... that my car ...
How did you know...
...isn't a Benz!?
AAAHHHHHH...
Ah... Ah...
ERRKK
Ahh...

ICHIBANK
VROOM
不動産

Double dumb.
Stepped in it twice.

He stepped in the trap...
.....

Well, usually ...
I would beat it out of you...
C-come on, man...

How much do you want... in compensation ?
I-I... don't really have much ...
Hehehe

.....

Um

If I had time to try and get the money out of you...
It would be easier to just shake down ..some working class stiff.
But let's forget about it!
First of all ...
Right now, you've got bigger things to worry about ..
Huh ...?
Huh!?
Hmph ...
Whaddya mean bigger things ...?
The problem, you see...
Bigger things to worry about...?
Hehehe
Is your friend Furuhata-kun.
Huh ...?

One of those debts ...

And he left behind a pile of debts, unpaid.Debts to lone-sharks.

That's right ...

You mean... He just disappeared ...?

He ran away!?

Money! I need some money, bat...

Kaiji, please, help!

: Hehehe

:

Is this one.

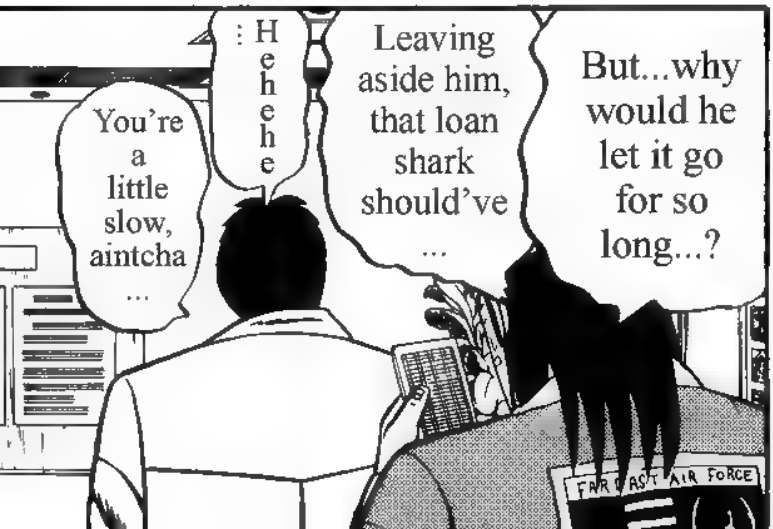
Remember it?

Hehehe
Damn it!
Damn it!
Damn it!
... co-sign for me ...
I won't get you into trouble, so please...
That jerk ...
It's because I'm underage.
Without a cosigner no one will lend me nothing.
Not even a loan shark.

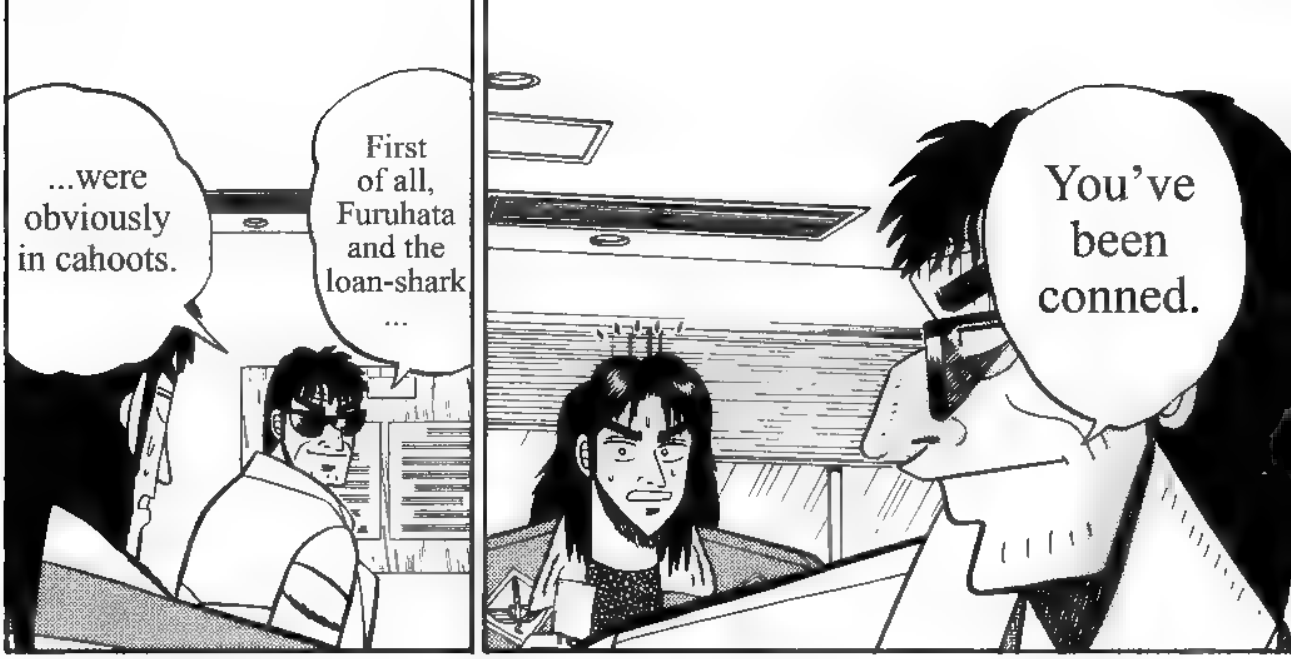
You see why I'm here.
So ...
Remembering now?
SWIPE

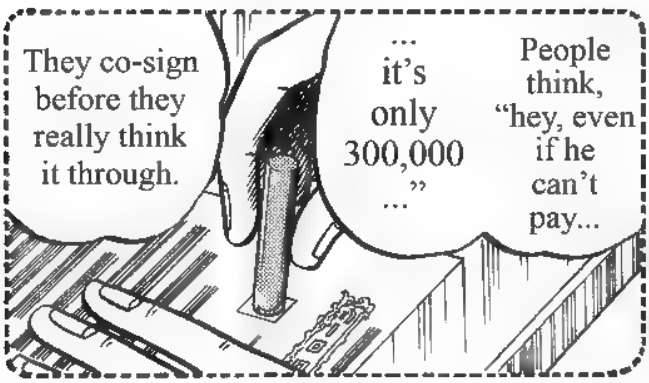
.....
... belongs to the co-signer. That's you.
But since the borrower skipped town...
It's a shame...
I hate to tell you this but ...
.....
Them's the breaks. Life's got its ups and downs.
The rest of the debt ...

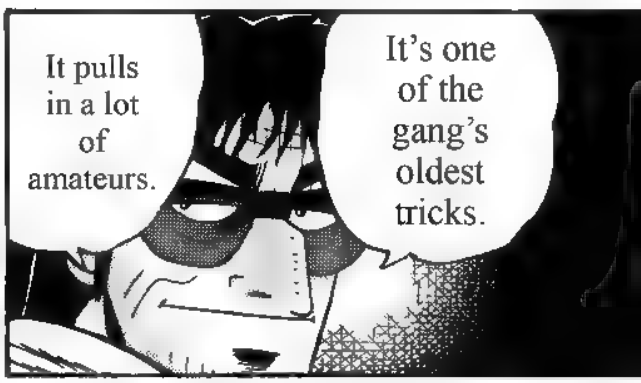
You can just pay it off a little at a time, every month. .
You can't expect me to clean up someone else's mess...
I mean ...
That's the kinda guy you're dealing with.
...where I was gonna find money for tomorrow's meals...
I was just thinking about...
Kaiji.
That's some sense of humor you've got...
: Hehehe
But at ¥300,000 ...
A little at a time?
...a single yen...
Which means ...
Before he slipped out, your friend didn't pay back...
: H!? uh
It's a lot more than ¥300,000 now.
There's interest on the money borrowed.
H-How barely ...?
At this point, ¥300,000 barely puts a dent in it...
And it's been 14 months.
So compound it 14 times over.
"¥300,000" at 20%
That's a 20% monthly interest.
Here, take a look at this contract.


: Hehehe
You're a little slow, aintcha ...
Leaving aside him, that loan shark should've ...
But...why would he let it go for so long...?
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

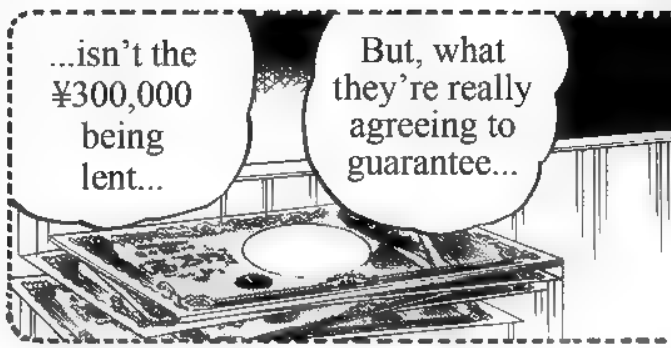
| Principal | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 30 | That's what 20% looks like |
| 1 | 36 | |
| 2 | 43. | |
| 3 | 51.8 | |
| 4 | 62.2 | |
| 5 | 74.6 | 5 |
| 6 | 89.5 | 6 |
| 7 | 107.4 | 7 |
| 8 | 128.9 | 8 |
| 9 | 154.7 | 9 |
| 10 | 185.7 | 10 |
| 11 | 222.9 | 11 |
| 12 | 267.4 | 12 |


...were obviously in cahoots.
First of all, Furuhata and the loan-shark ...
You've been conned.


They co-sign before they really think it through.
... it's only 300,000 ..."
People think, "hey, even if he can't pay...


It pulls in a lot of amateurs.
It's one of the gang's oldest tricks.

It's all an elaborate ploy ...
...but the terms of the whole contract.


...isn't the ¥300,000 being lent...
But, what they're really agreeing to guarantee...

But since that's the way it is...
It may not be fair...

...is breathing down their necks.
Bam! An interest bloated debt...

And just when they've forgotten all about it...
Out of the blue ...
They get left alone for about a year.

¥100,000 a month...
...and change the payment to reasonable one.
We'll get you off for that crazy interest...
But hey... Don't get upset...
You'll just have to work hard to pay it off.
You can expect to pay back the ¥3,850,000 . .
And 15% equal monthly payments...
¥60K then...
At ¥60K.
No... ¥100K is probably impossible ...
I bet that's sooner than you thought!
Work hard and the time will pass before you know it.
Hey ...
In about .. 130 months ...
11 years .
No problem ...
You'll have it all paid around the time you're what, 32, 33...

Hehehe
I'm not obligated to pay that!
First off, that kind of interest has got to be illegal.
Not a chance!
I ain't gonna pay that ...
Who do you think you're kidding!?
We've got our own "laws" ...
Kaiji-kun ...
Meaning they all pay.
Or in other words ...
They've all been set up...
How many people do you think are paying "toichi" loans?*
You see all those businesses ?
Just take a look around this community...
I know you don't have a dad around ...
I could go have a chat with your sister, the public servant, instead...
For instance, your sister...
We're pros.
They're being made to pay.
We collect with no exceptions.

*"Toichi" is a type of illegal loan compounded every 10 days. Annual rates exceed 1000 to 3000%.

...
GRRRINND
...
I bet you could have this paid off in 5 years, tops.
If the whole family chipped in ...
I bet she'd help us. If we asked.
But your mother's still working a part-time job.
That's right ...
...!
Kaiji!
You no-good ... If you ever...
I'm not serious.
...
I don't wanna see families ...
...in turmoil anymore ..
Listen, ok...
I'm not serious about that.

That's not why I'm here...
Calm down ...
...
Sit down.
Let's get down to the real issue.
...
Real issue ...?
That's right ...
...what it is I really want.
Let me tell you...
...
A month from now...

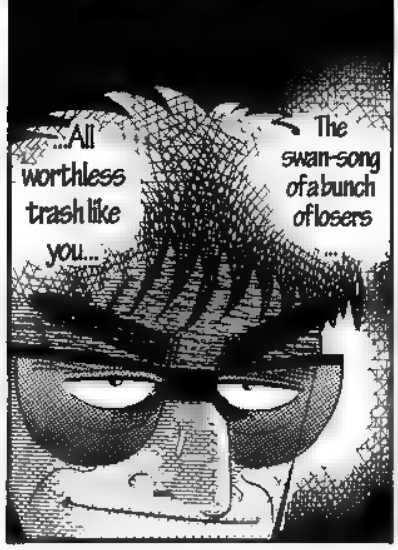
That boat is called "Espoir."
It's the French word for "hope" ...
Right now we're inviting participants ...
...a boat will be departing from Harumi Wharf

And if everything goes right.
One night on that boat.
That's right.
Participants to board the boat.
Participants?

Yep ...
Wiped clean ...?
..could be wipe clean in 1 day
...that ten year debt of yours...

…for a 1 night gambling cruise.
...young folks at the end of their ropes…
We're gathering people like you .
W-Why ...?
A gambling ship...
Of course, if you win...
:
It will depend on how much you owe
If that happens you'll stay on the boat and be taken to a secret location.
But you won't be able to return to this life for at least a year or two.
...you'll end up even further in debt.
If you lose...

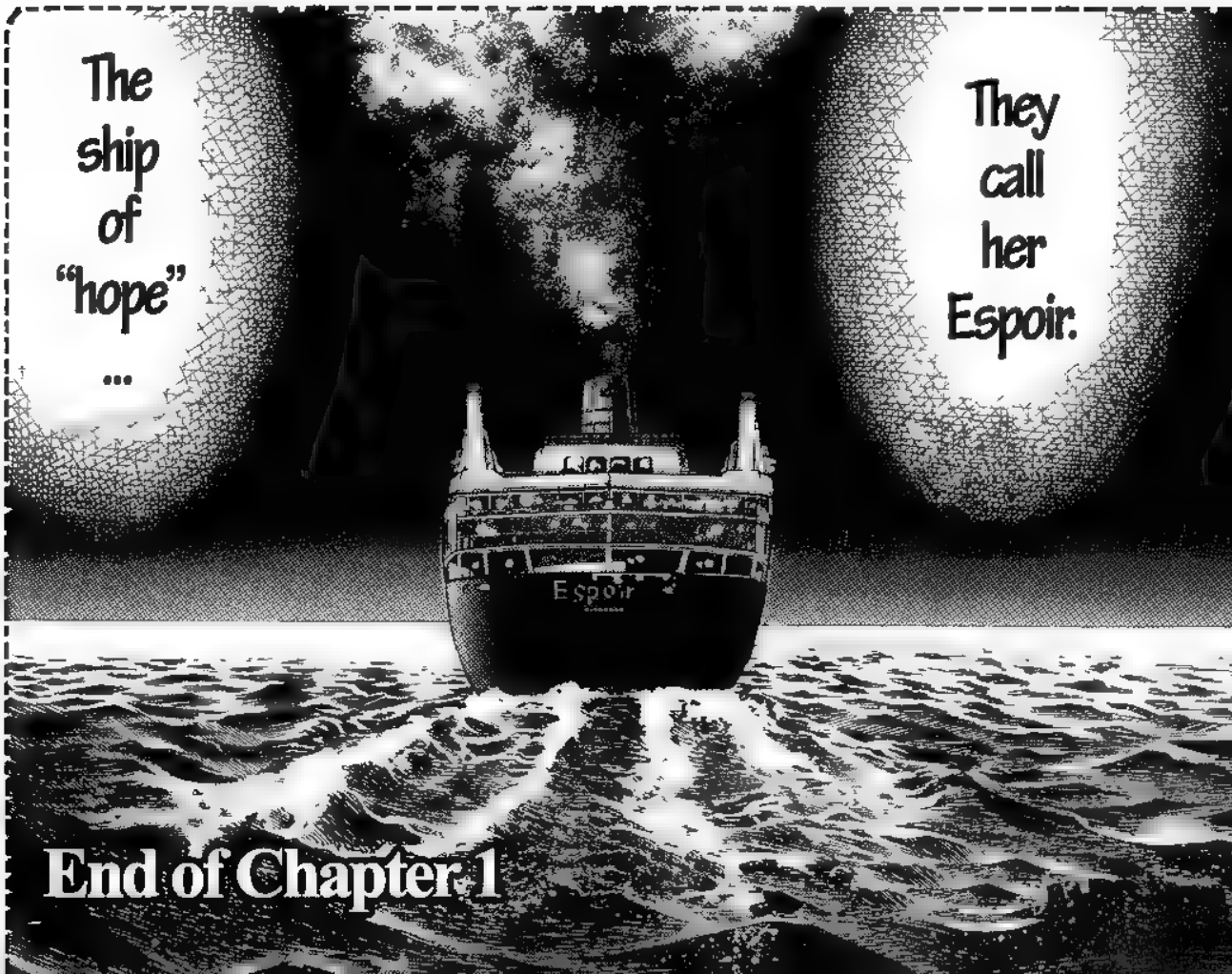
...¥10, 20 mil. richer.
...who get off of that ship...
Kaiji ...
On top of that...
..your whole debt will be wiped clean ...
...every cruise, there are many passengers ...
You're gonna board that ship!
...
...
ぎわ
Board the ship ...
...hold out until the end ...
...and come back a free man.
That's right ...
...If I win I'm debt-free ...?
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

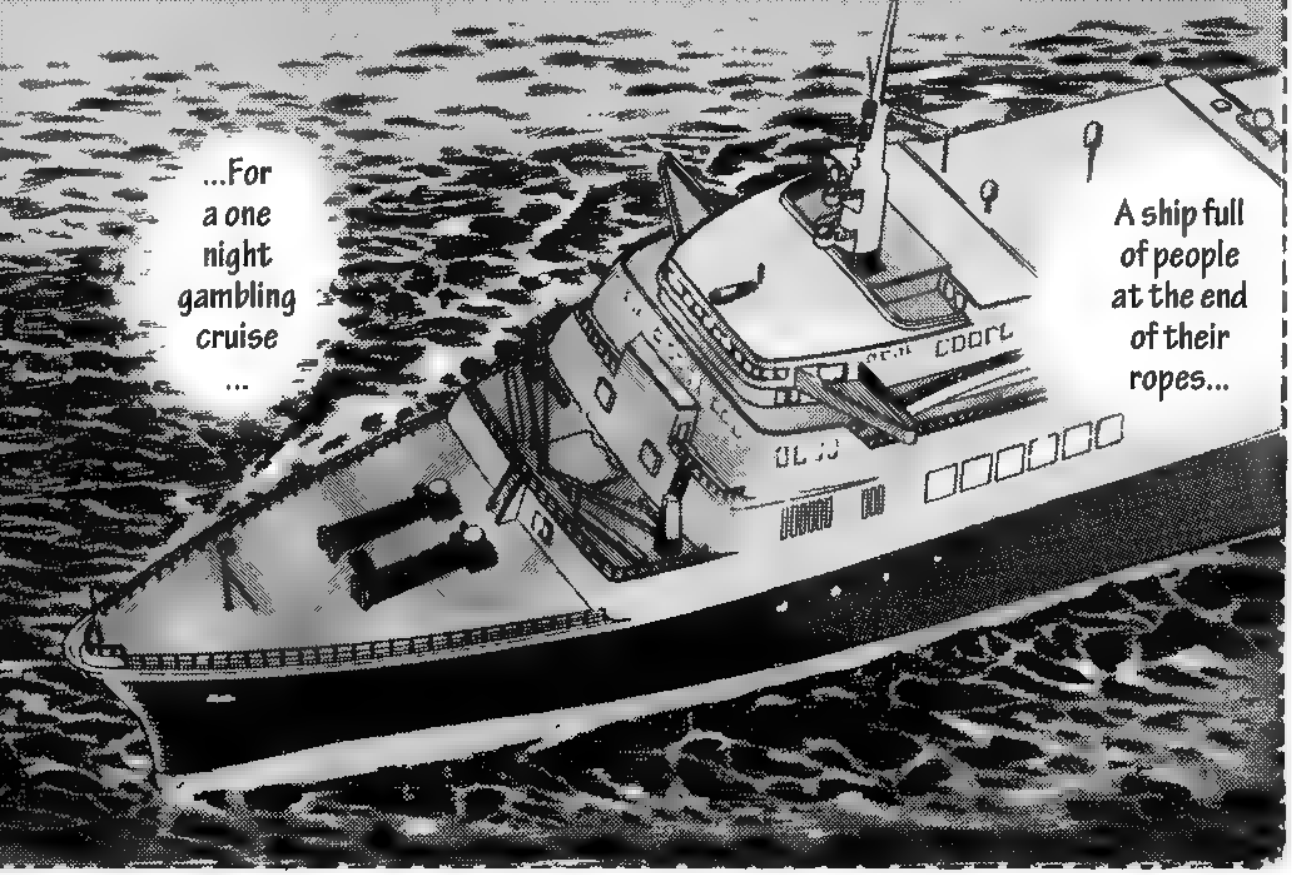

...All worthless trash like you...
The swan-song of a bunch of losers...

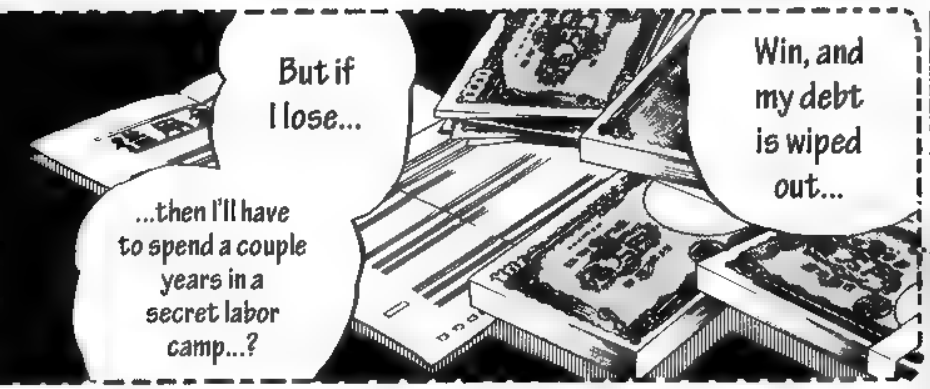
Hehehe
FAR

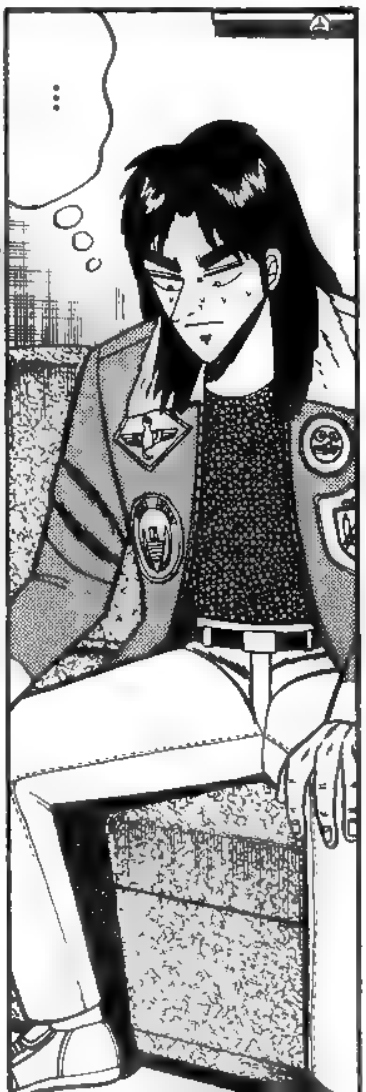
USS

...to a boat of carnage, drifting in the pits of hell.
A bunch of scum brought together for one night, lured in by a little hope...


The ship of "hope"...
They call her Espoir.
Espoir
End of Chapter 1


...For a one night gambling cruise ...
A ship full of people at the end of their ropes...


But if I lose...
...then I'll have to spend a couple years in a secret labor camp...?
Win, and my debt is wiped out...

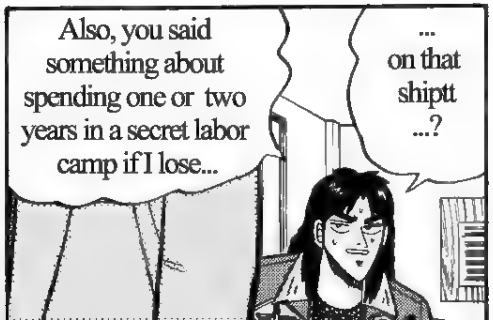

...

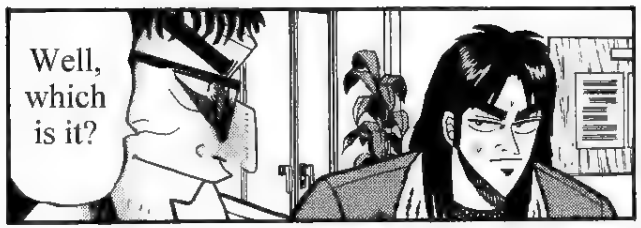
...

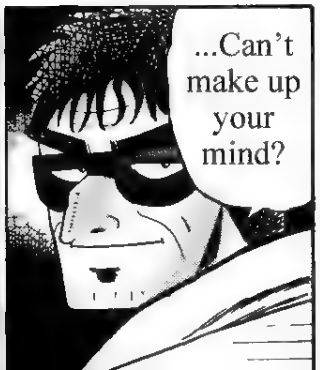
What should I do ...?

...
You won't be able to return to this life ...

# Chapter 2: A Crossroads





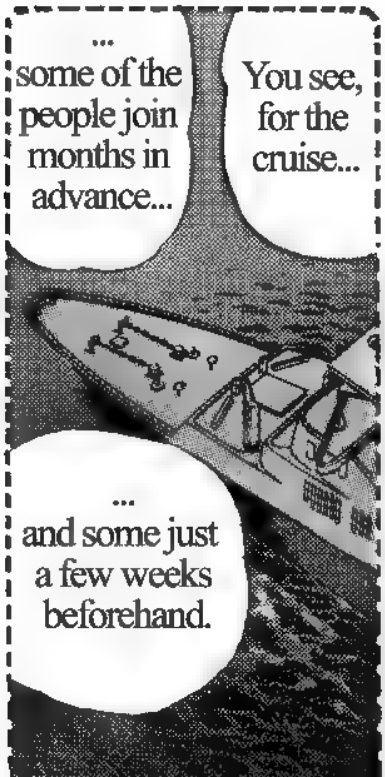
... either of your...
But I can't answer...

Don't get, here.
I can see why you would want to know.

Good questions ...

Sorry.
... questions.

Hmmph
Wha ...?

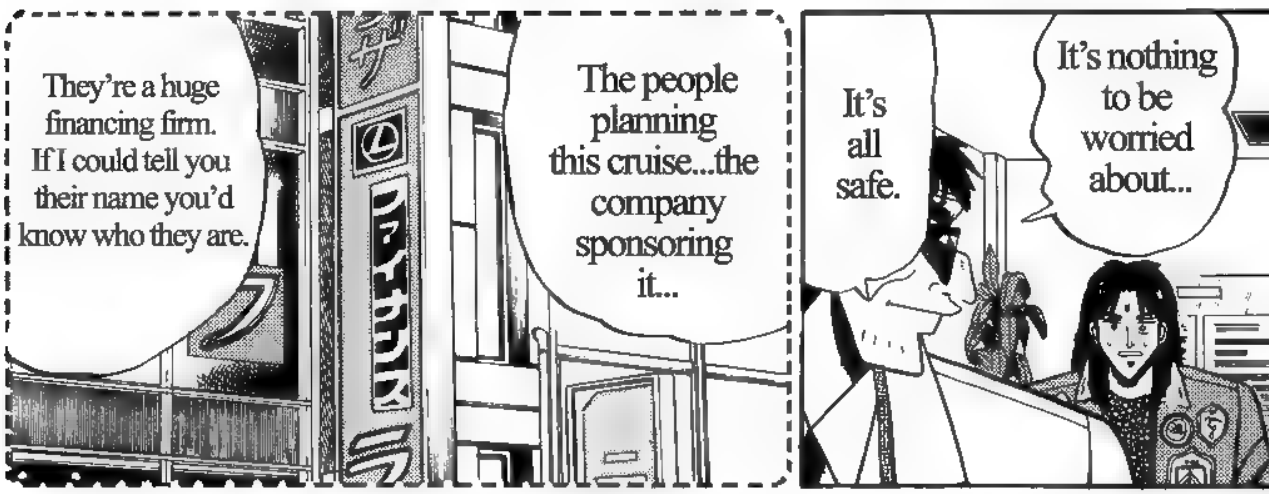

... some of the people join months in advance...
You see, for the cruise...
... and some just a few weeks beforehand.

...that would be unfair to the other participants.
If I told you what went on inside the ship...
I can't do it.

What's the big deal ...?
Whaddya mean, can't answer ...!
Listen, OK...

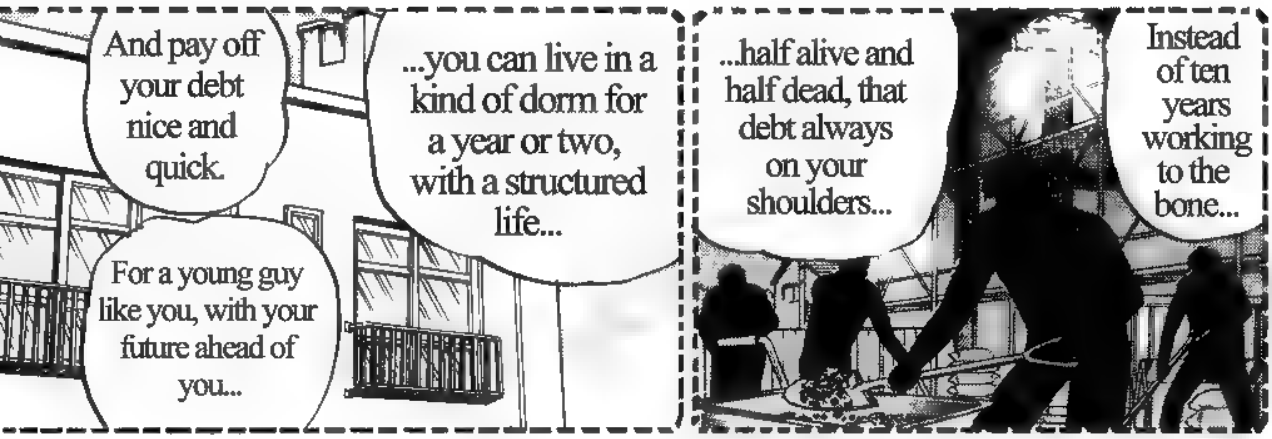
...while they waited to board the ship...
They'd be able to build up their strategy...
Get it ...?
...people who joined early would have an advantage.
If we let people know beforehand what kind of gambling goes on...
In the event that you lose...
Next ...
So until they get on the boat, no one says a word about the game.
We don't want to be unfair...
Yep ...
You don't know...?
The truth is, I don't know much myself...
Huh ...?
... about that ...
I can't say much ...

But relax ...
I understand how you feel.
Kaiji ...
Hmph
Where... Where do you get off ...!?
... and don't know anything about it.
I'm not in charge of that part ...
W-Wh ...


They're a huge financing firm. If I could tell you their name you'd know who they are.
The people planning this cruise...the company sponsoring it...
It's all safe.
It's nothing to be worried about...

This ship was set up on a frame of charity...
Quite the opposite ...
...to help out young folks who are in debt.
The point of this ship isn't to ruin people.
That's not what they had in mind when they set it up.
They make enough money as it is.
They aren't gonna do anything crazy.
Listen

In that case it's like charity, clean and simple.
But if you do happen to lose...
Your debt is clear.
A single night of gambling. If you win...
Yep.
Charity ...?


And pay off your debt nice and quick.
For a young guy like you, with your future ahead of you...
...you can live in a kind of dorm for a year or two, with a structured life...
...half alive and half dead, that debt always on your shoulders...
Instead of ten years working to the bone...

... isn't entirely true.
Calling it charity ...
The lenders, obviously, make a profit as well.
Of course ...
... Well ...
... will be a huge load off.
...getting out of debt quickly ...

But the truth is collecting slowly from kids foolish enough...
... to rack up millions of yen in debt while still young ...
We're pro extortionists.
I said it earlier.
We collect without exception ...
...for our people as well.
We can't live on air either. We have to consider our costs...
...run-of-the-mill for us.
...really isn't...
It's all a gamble
...and increase the debt load on the rest.
We reduce the number of borrowers ...
And for those who are unlucky, and wind up increasing their debt...
And that's where this ship comes in...
...on an unsure bet?
Why kill ourselves trying to collect...
If there's a more profitable way... It only makes sense to do it.

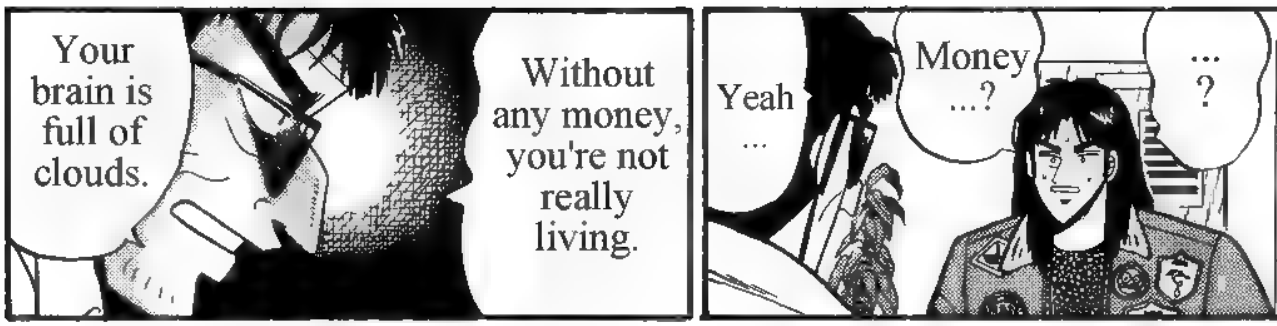
It gets rid of other costs, too.
None of this stupid cat-and-mouse between debtor and lender.
That way, there's no weaseling out..
They're imprisoned, and the debt is collected by force ...
...it may seem rough, but it is what it is ...they're imprisoned.
From the lender's point of view...
...this kind of system itself is...
... already profitable enough.
...
If you want proof, the gambling on board the ship...
Not a red cent.
The cruise itself is just done out of the goodness of their hearts.
So you see...
The sponsors aren't trying to make more money off this.
It's not banker vs. players.
...isn't like regular casino gambling.

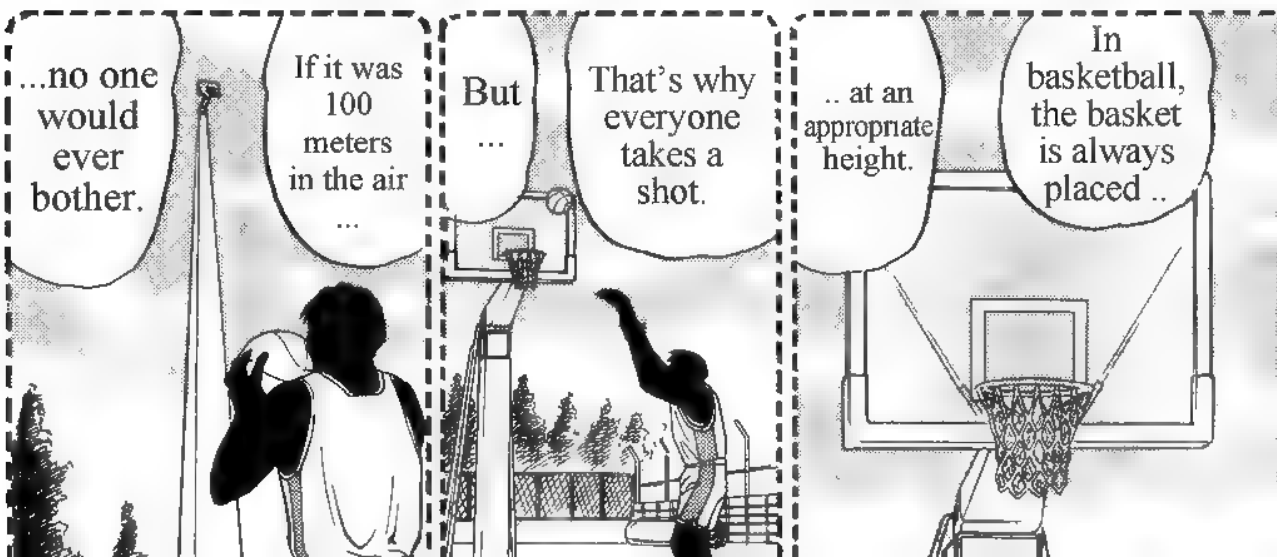
...half of the passengers get off, every time ...
And as a result ...
Yeah ....
Against each other ...?
No, the participants compete against each other...
How's that for charity ?
That's right.
Half !?
If 20% got off the boat, that'd be good enough.
...we'd be thinking the whole time about how we could squeeze more money out of you losers.
If crooks like us were running this show ...
Now if it was us...
... Well ...
Rest assured .
... this cruise really is a charitable event.
If you look at it that way...

...I mean, I guess ...
Hmph ...
Well ...
⋮
Not convinced ...?
...was really a stroke of luck on your part.
You getting the chance to board that ship...
... Kaiji -kun ...
As I see it...
... Well ...
⋮
Right?
Tired, unproductive, degenerate ...
I bet every day you feel like trash...
What ...?
That's right.
Luck ...?

I'll tell you.
If I knew why ...
No ...
And do you understand why you feel that way?
Wha ...?

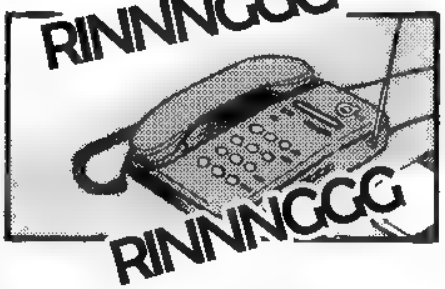
It's because you don't have any money!


Your brain is full of clouds.
Without any money, you're not really living.
Yeah ...
Money ...?
... ?


...no one would ever bother.
If it was 100 meters in the air ...
But ...
That's why everyone takes a shot.
.. at an appropriate height.
In basketball, the basket is always placed ..

Out of your reach...
They're all on the other side of that show window...
You're sick of it.
You've got an unreachable goal.
Think of all the things you "see" everyday...
It's the same with you!
...
You can't buy them, and the stress...
You like to vandalize foreign cars, right?
Think about it.
Turning you into a low-life degenerate.
...is sucking you dry.
If you had 10 million yen in your pocket...
But I can promise you this.
You've given up before even starting... So in the end...
But just going out and buying it seems out of the question...
...you turn into a petty vandal.
That's just a textbook example....
You want a Benz yourself.

You wouldn't be vandalizing those cars!
But you're barely interested.
It's the same with the cruise. How many times have I said you could win 10 or 20 million?
Well? Am I wrong?
Huh ...
... once and for all.
Is your chance to get rid of that kind of mind...
This cruise ...
You're so used to losing...
Change your life...!
Win and become rich...!
Win, Kaiji!



It's yakuza's word...

...
Everything he said is true...
Uh-huh.
Uh-huh.
Yeah.
CLICK
Later ...
I understand ...
...
It's true
...
...
I've been stagnating
...
...
How can I put it ...?
I'm not the only one arranging passengers.
Spots on the cruise ...
You better decide quick...
Huh ...?
There are only two spots left.
Kaiji-kun ...

Endo Financing here.
RINNNGGG
Only two left...?
Only two left...?
Huh ...?
I'm sorry...
Kaiji.
But ...
You're telling me to decide so quick...
What !?
They're gone...
CLICK

Too bad ...
You'll just have to work to pay off your debt ...
H-Hold on ...
Just hold on a second ...!
Yeah ...?
But ...
Can't ...
Can't you do something ...?
Are you telling me...
...that now you want in ...?
Well ... I mean ....
If I have to choose ...
...

...
Dial
Dial
Dial

Lucky you ...
...For real?
Looks like they'll add an extra seat.
I convinced him!
Bring me a passenger contract .
Hey.
Right down to business ...
Let's see.
Now then ...
Signed, sealed and delivered ...!
...and stamp your seal here ...
Write your name ...
SLAM

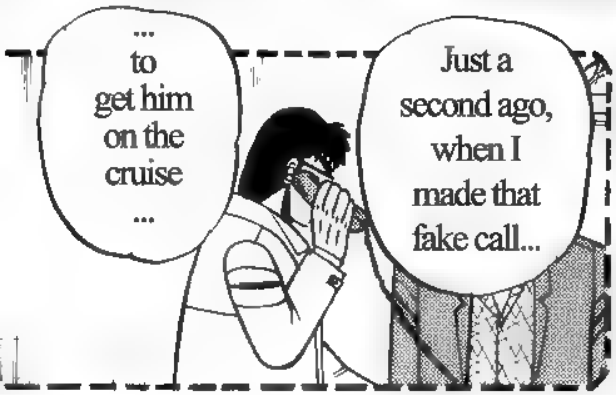
Heehee
You can come out now ...
Alright ...
Muhaha

...it worked perfectly .
And just with this well-timed call...
You played him well ...
No one runs 'em like you, Aniki.
I gotta hand it to you.
You know ...

Hmph
That's just an old trick real estate agents use...
...when customers can't make up their mind about an apartment
They light up the phones like the property is hot ...
Sometimes
...they'll even bring in fake buyers...
...to lead the customer into committing .
All I did was swap properties for a spot on the cruise.
Hey, it's all about how you play your hand in life...
Hmph
RUSTLE!
What an idiot ...
SWISH
Who's gonna line up ...
...to get on a freaky cruise like this...!?
Right ...?
Haha
Hehehe

It would sure be easier if they were all as stupid as him.
But kids these days are a lot more suspicious...
Anyway, at least that's taken care of.
We finally got our quota of 10.
Here you go.
Thanks

Huh ...?
But you almost gotta feel sorry for him...
I hear that.
It was a tough job...

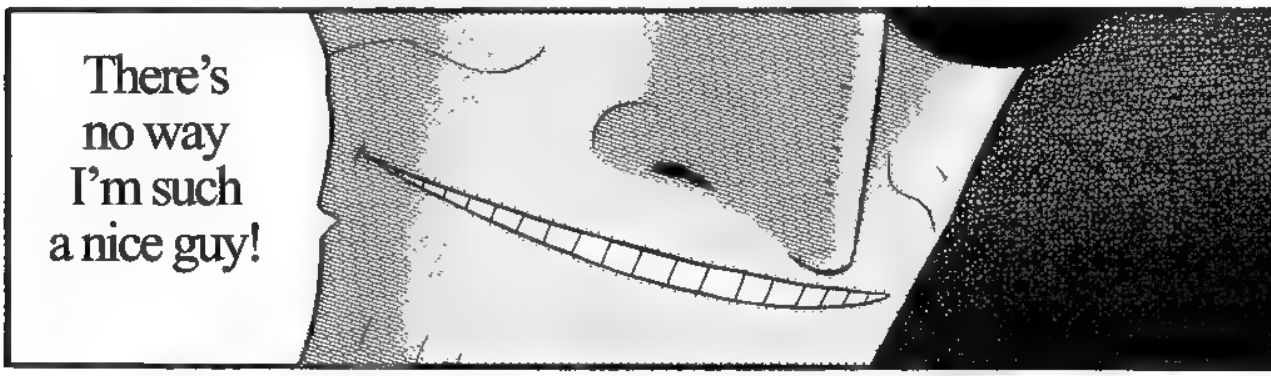

... to get him on the cruise ...
Just a second ago, when I made that fake call...

... "Gee, that Endo..."
... that he was thinking ...
Don't you just bet...

He doesn't stand a chance.
You're right about that ...
Cause ...

... if I had to say either way.
Well, he's the type that doesn't make it off the ship...
Hehehe

It's thanks to idiots like that...
..that we yakuza don't go hungry.
Hehehe
You? A nice guy...?
"What a nice guy!"
....


There's no way I'm such a nice guy!

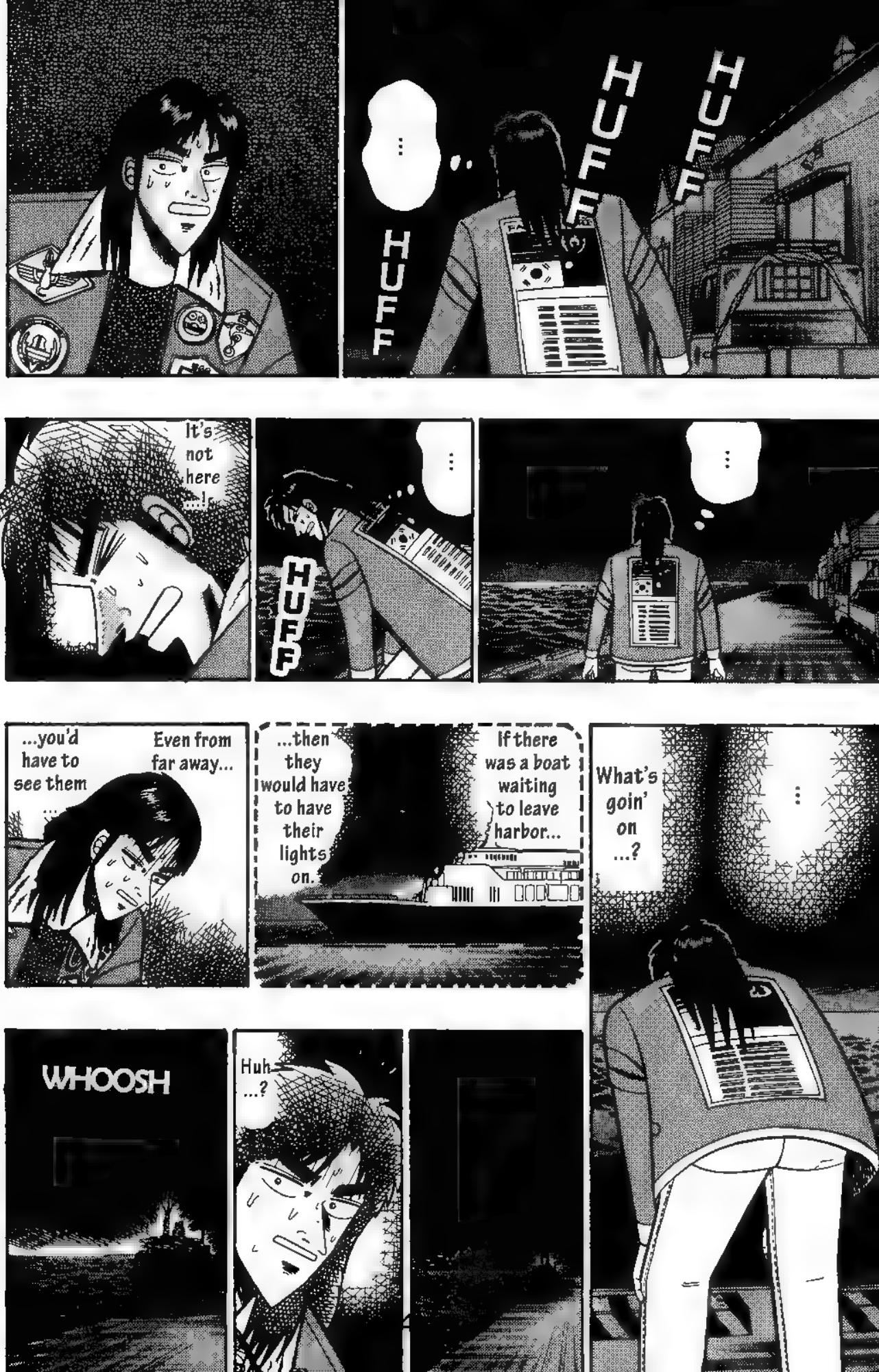
...than prey for predators.
Will be nothing more...
End of Chapter 2
What a naïve loser.
...
Hehehe
...
A foolish little punk like him...

Harumi

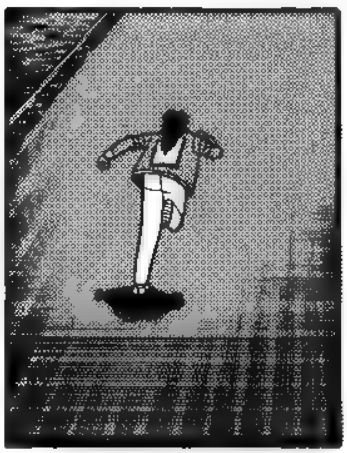


March 4th, 1996

Chapter 3: Pitch Black
I don't see any boats...
... that fit the ticket...
I can't believe it...!
I don't see it any where...
I gotta find the boat, Espoir...
Oh no ...!
...30 minutes early would be enough...
I thought coming...
They'll leave without me!
I don't have time to waste ...!
I can't believe this!
Man ...!
I didn't see anything back there...
... but may be over there...!
Then ...
HUFF HUFF
This place is deserted....

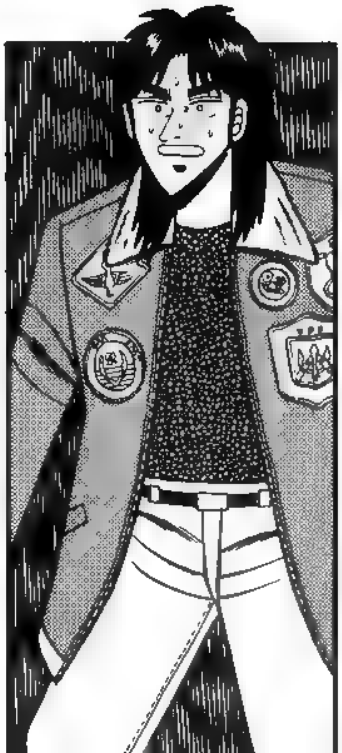

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
It's not here...!
HUFF
...you'd have to see them...
Even from far away...
...then they would have to have their lights on.
If there was a boat waiting to leave harbor...
What's goin' on...?
WHOOSH
Huh...?

Couldit be...?

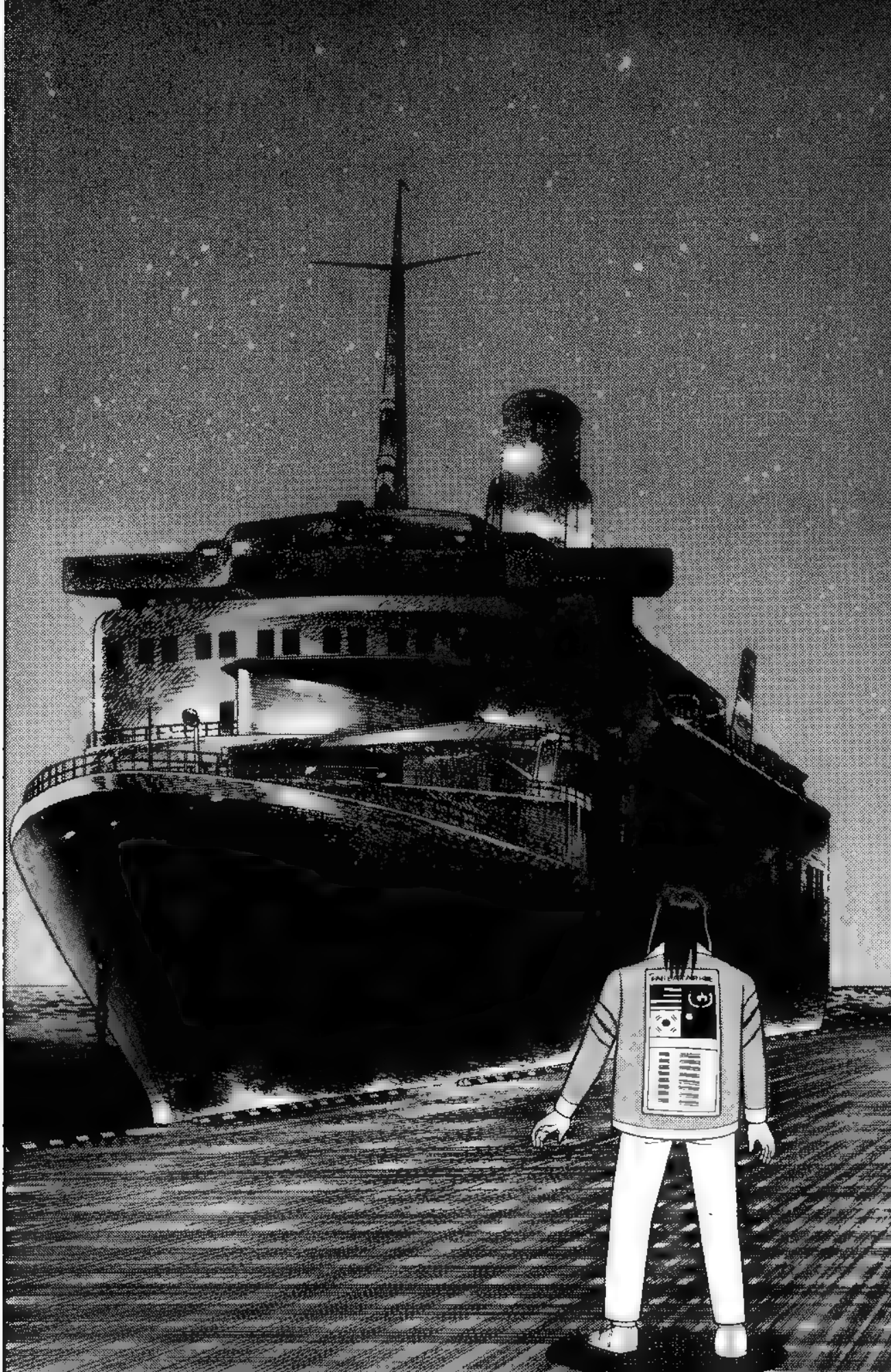


Couldit be...?

Ah...!



Espoir...?



Huh ...?
FLASH
Yes ?!
Y...
Excuse me, but...
SWISH
Uh ...?
Are you Kaiji ... Ito-sama?
Ah ...!
Ah ...
Correct.
This must be Espoir!?
That's me! That's me...!
Ah... Yeah ...
Which means ...

I was starting to get worried there...
Er... Sorry, I had trouble finding it...
Outta sight!
...
Hmph
And I didn't see any other passengers ...
I mean, there were no lights on...
We expected that participants might become confused...
Thank you for coming.
I'm just glad I made it ...
Not a problem.
Hey, not at all!
You'll have to forgive us.
It was only natural that you wouldn't meet...
any other passengers
We needed to avoid having over 100 people...
We have arranged for each participant to come at a different time...
... gather all at once.
We must endeavor to draw as little attention as possible in our gathering.
But this boat, of course, is less than legal.
Which is why ...

Huh ...?
SWOOSH
First, Kaiji was subjected ...
Now, if you'll excuse us.
Of course ...
Ah ...
Which, of course, is also why we needed to turn the ship's lights off.
...they checked to be sure that he was the same person who had signed the contract.
Then finally ...
Once the search was finished ...
All these items were obviously forbidden.
...to determine if he had any weapons, dangerous items, or a cell phone.
... to a body search...
Please, go ahead ...
Hmm ...
You're our last passenger ...
It's 11:45.
Kaiji - sama.
We'll board the ship together.
He boarded ...
?

ZUUUUN

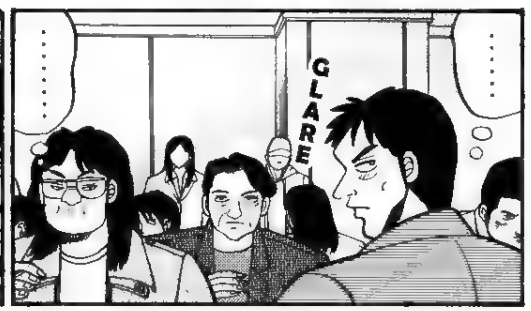
I guess ...
Hmm.
If you think about it...

... negative energy here...
They is some serious ...

What's wrong ...
... with these guys ...?

CREAK CREAK

These kinds of losers are gathered here...
They're all stuck with crushing debts...
It only makes sense ...


GLARE

Oh no ...

ざわ・・
?
?
Sorry to have kept you waiting.
...all participants have been accounted for.
... cancellations ...
Discounting today's ...
Welcome to the 3rd "Creative Cruise."
We will be departing shortly.
: However
Before we depart ...

...?
which we would like you to decide.
...there is something ...
...is entirely broke.
I know of course that each of you ...
...is the amount of...
...funds for the gambling tonight ...
What I would like you to decide...
We will lend you the funds from now on.
... by providing all of the funds for tonight's entertainment.
We, of course, will accommodate you...

WHISK

ざわ・・
・・・・・・・
Nggh
...

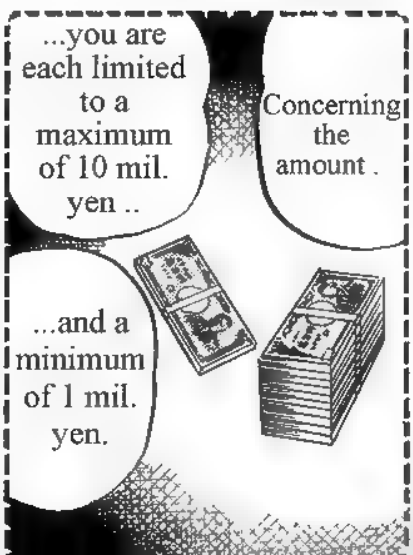
Ah
...

ざわざわ
ざわ

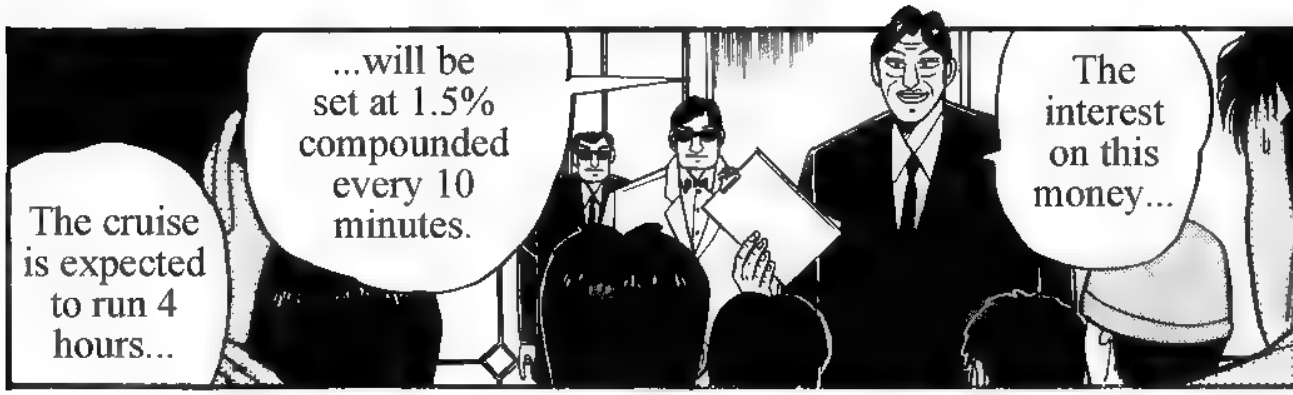
...limitations you must bear in mind.
There are certain ...

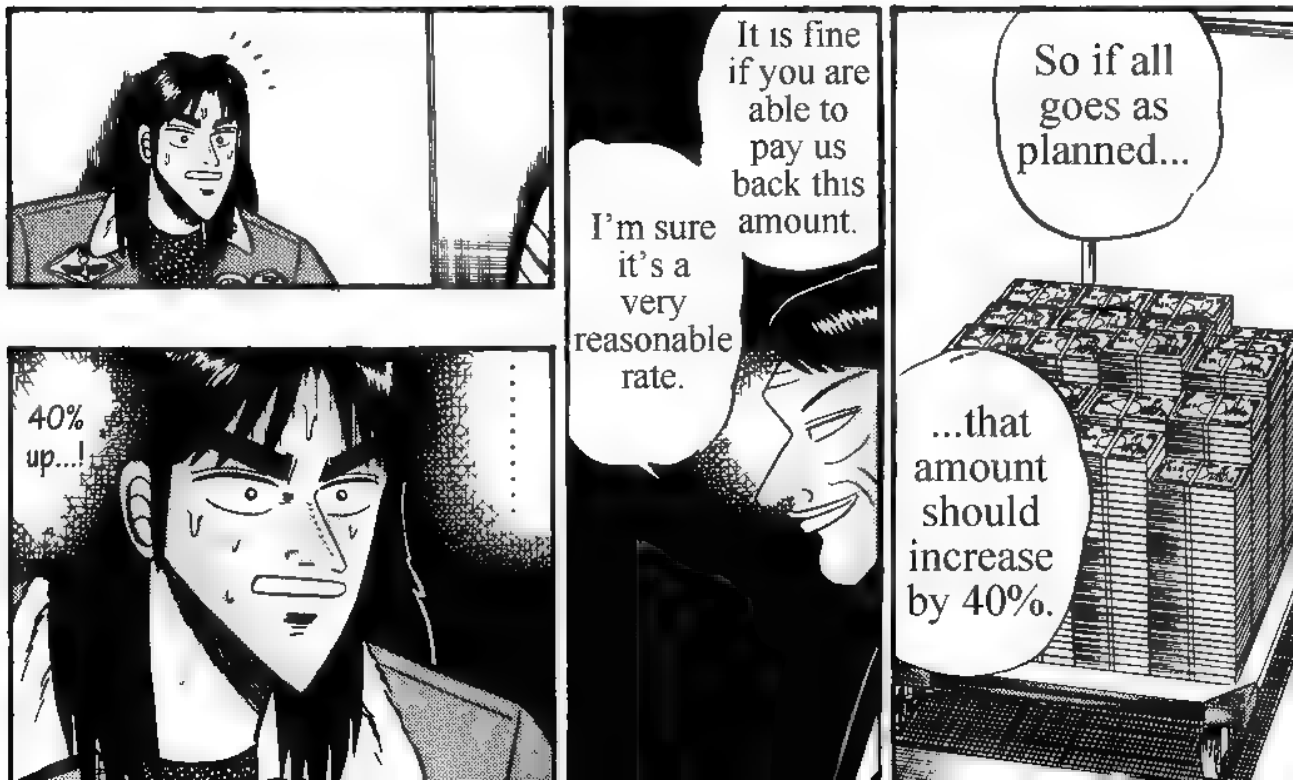
You see, we have plenty of funds...
...but that does not mean that there are not rules.

...must borrow at least 1 mil. yen...
That means that each of you ..


...you are each limited to a maximum of 10 mil. yen ..
Concerning the amount .
...and a minimum of 1 mil. yen.

...is limited to 5 mil. yen.
Additionally,
Anyone over 30...
Those who are older will have a slight handicap attached.
.. is to lend a helping hand to young folks.
As you know, the purpose of this cruise...

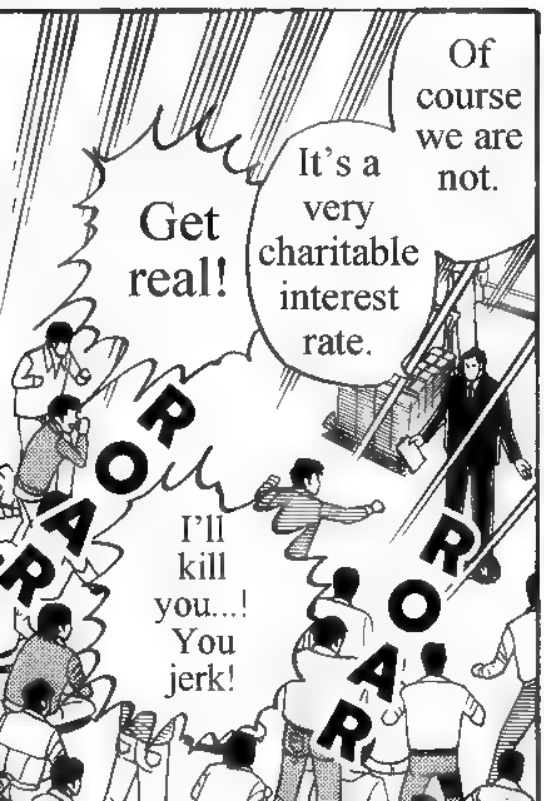

The cruise is expected to run 4 hours...
...will be set at 1.5% compounded every 10 minutes.
The interest on this money...


40% up...!
.....
I'm sure it's a very reasonable rate.
It is fine if you are able to pay us back this amount.
So if all goes as planned...
...that amount should increase by 40%.

ざわ..ざわ..
.....

Wait just a second ...!
Now, if there are no questions ...

ざわ..ざわ..
.....
DPFM

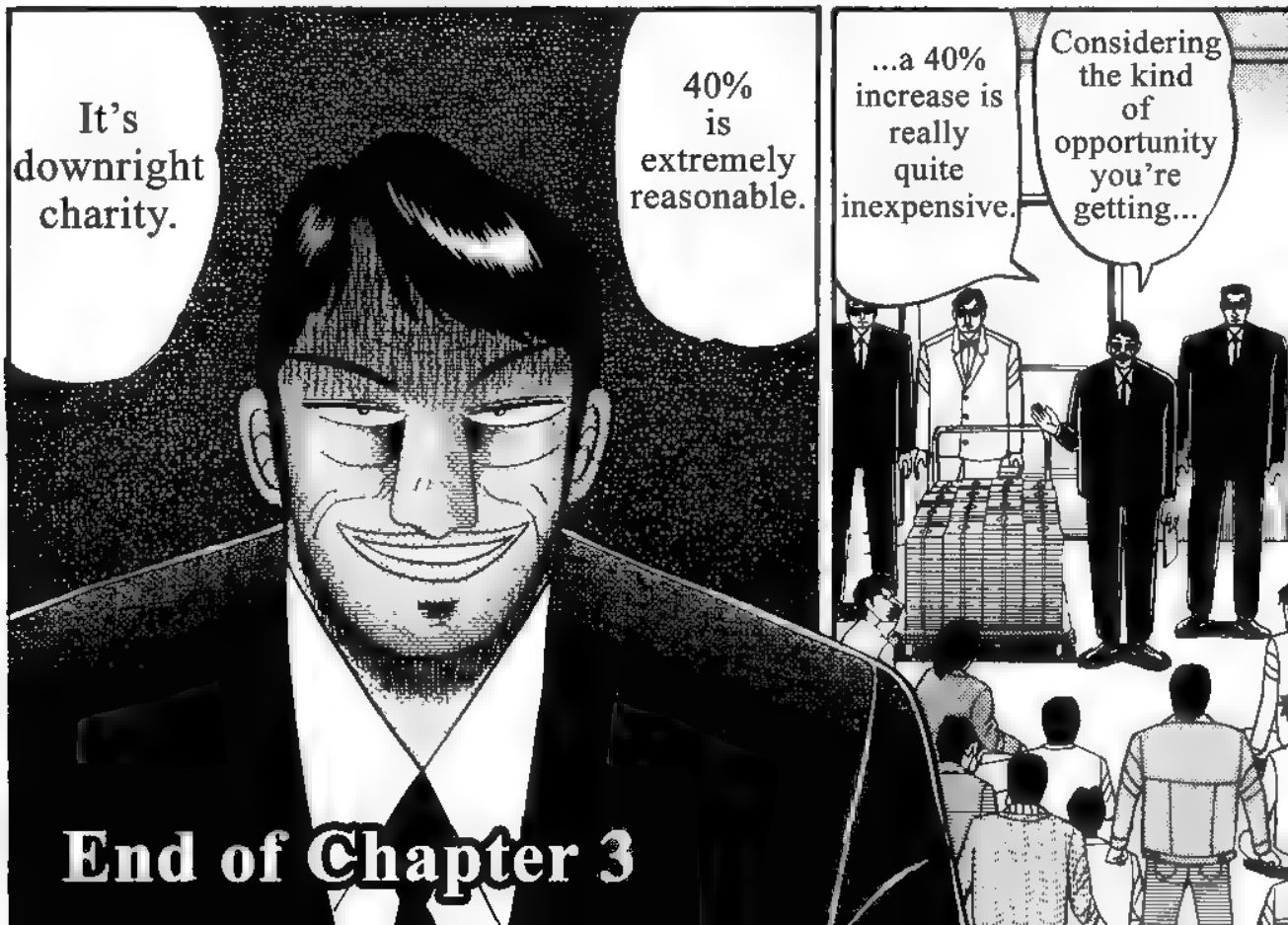

Get real!
It's a very charitable interest rate.
Of course we are not.
I'll kill you...! You jerk!
AARRORAR

You can't take advantage of us like this!
That's right ...!
Now, now.

40% is outrageous ...!
D...Do you take us for fools!?

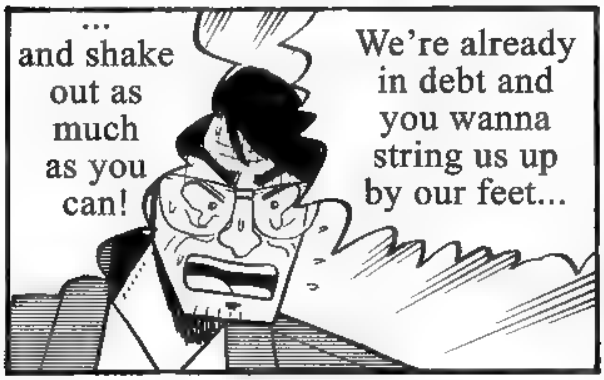
Come, now.
You villain ...!
Let me at 'em! I'll show 'em!
Hehehe
That's pure extortion !
Who takes interest every 10 minutes !?
ROAR

...to pay off your debt in one lump sum.
We're giving you all the chance...
We're hardly villains.
We planned this cruise to help you young people out of your debts.


It's downright charity.
40% is extremely reasonable.
...a 40% increase is really quite inexpensive.
Considering the kind of opportunity you're getting...
End of Chapter 3

# Chapter 4: Setting Sail

Get out of here ...!
You gotta be kidding us...!
It's downright charity.
40% is very reasonable interest.


... and shake out as much as you can!
We're already in debt and you wanna string us up by our feet...

Are you ripping us off even more !?
You piece of trash ...!

SHAKE
We'll get off ...!
You don't need any more interest...!
SHAKE

Just knock it off ...
Knock it off!
GASP

: Hehehe
You pull a stunt like this, and we'll all just get off the boat...!

It's your choice.
...of crushing debt.
We won't stop you.
...and go back to your 10, 20 years ...
You can get off ...
We won't try to stop you.
If you want off you're free to go.
Be my guest.

Ah ...
You do whatever you please ...

ざわ..
Ah ...
ざわ..
ざわ..

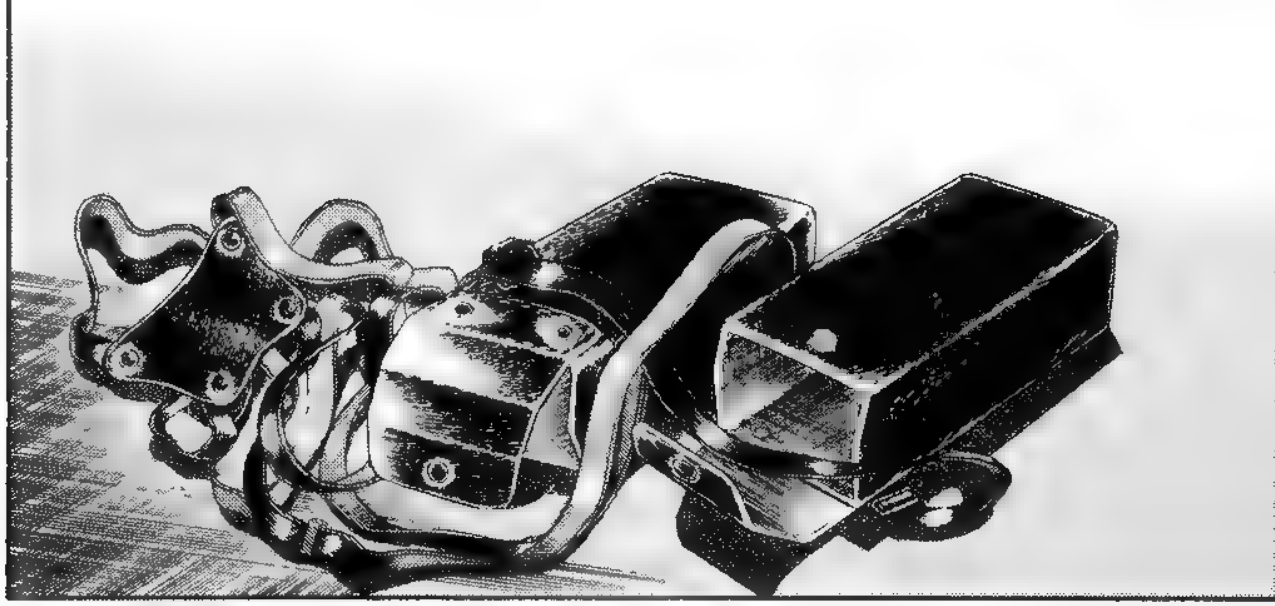
...is because we don't have that choice...
...The reason we're all on this ship in the first place ...
Of all the dirty tricks...
.....
... Those jerks ...
...This is what it means to be taken advantage of...

Darn ...
Well, have you made your decision...? Ishida-sama?
Darn !
Darn !
Darn !
When they die, hell will be waiting for them... They're absolute villains...
One ...
Yoshida. 1 million.
Next.
Thank you very much...
One million...! I'll take one million, you jerk!
Of course everyone will choose the minimum.
Why do they even ask?
Tsk ...
Sawamura. A million ...!
Why would borrow money at these outrageous rates...
I mean, isn't it obvious ...?
Nakane. 1 million ...

A bunch of fools.
None worth a dime.
Look at them ...
HMPH
Hehehe
Get real ...!
...just to give them even more in interest !?
Are they stupid or something ?
SWOOSH
Don't they know why we're here...?
Give me the maximum ...
Funai.
Huh ...!
ざわ...
ざわ...
.....
Ah ...
ざわ...

This is no good ...!
SMACK SMACK
SMACK
What's the point of sympathizing with that old man...?
I'm starting to doze off!
...today's game...
I can't let myself lose...
...all I need to think about is winning.
Right now ...
...won't get me anywhere either.
And right now, being angry at the organizers ...
FORCE
We still don't know what they're gonna make us do.
I mean, think about it...
That Funai has got it right...
FORCE
...I've gotta take this chance and win...
For once in my life ...

...as much money as possible.
Then it's better to have...
FARE
R FORCE
...like poker.
There are games that depend a lot on the stakes ...
It'd be stupid to cut that lifeline short ...
... just by thinking of immediate gain and loss.
...if you're gonna gamble, then money is your lifeline.
And even if it isn't that sort of game...
10 million yen...!
Kaiji Ito.
I'll take the max !
That's right ...
Next ...
I almost made a big mistake!
WHOMP



Once the funds had been lent out...

...those who had borrowed a large amount...

...were given special holsters, to carry all the money...

...that wouldn't fit in their pockets.

It was a foresight by the organizers, so that they could hold their money ...

...inside of their shirts.

Next ...

...they weren't told why...

...but a piece of Velcro was affixed to their left breast.

Paper envelopes with "A" and B" were handed out...

... and then ...

...after checking for passports, they moved...

...to the play hall.

SWAY

It's too late to turn back ...!
Then I guess ...
We must have left the dock...
We've set sail.
We're moving ...
ざわ..
ざわ
...the best of luck in your challenges.
I wish you all ...
... given to you inside.
From hereon, please follow the instructions ...
That concludes my orientation.
Thank you for your patience.
Ah ...
And good riddance...
Go on, get lost...!
HUDDLE
HUDDLE
Tsk ...!
SWISH
Now then, if you'll ...
... excuse us.

ざわ..ざわ..
It's huge ...
ざわ..
ざわ..ざわ..
GCP ...?
Quiet! Quiet please...
4'00"00
G C P
412 412 412
What are these tables for...?
CLOMP
... to the stage.
Everyone. hurry, Come closer...
Quickly. Quickly.
...I'll explain tonight's game to you.
As soon as you've all entered...
Please ...

……
ざわ

Good evening.
I am here …
… to aid you all in tonight's games.
I have been chosen as the hall-master …
… for this cruise. My name …
… is Tonegawa.

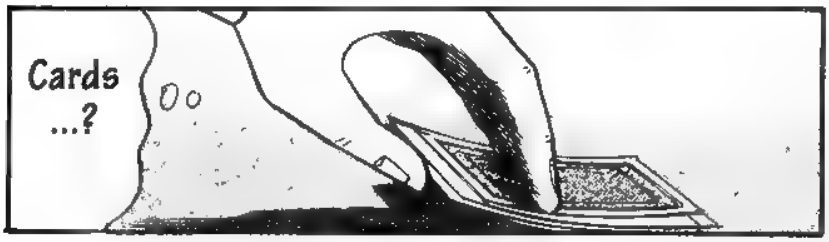
Let us begin ...
First I will explain ...
... tonight's game to everybody.
However ...
... we're already quite pressed for time.
So ....
... I will only explain this once.
There will be no repeating.

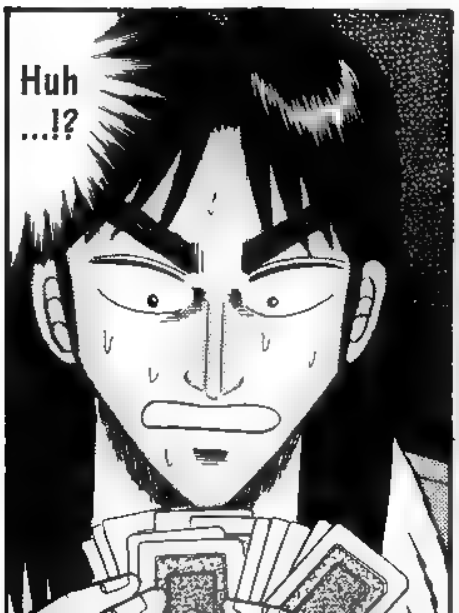
So please, everybody ...
... listen to me carefully.
Now, then ....
If you have any questions afterwards ...
... I'm afraid I will be unable to answer them

RRRIP
RRRIP
KRRRR
A
Please open them now...!
First of all ...
When entering this hall, you all received ...
... a package marked "A."
A

KRRRR
KRRRR
KRRRR

ヒュー


Cards
...?


Huh
...!?

ざわ…
ざわ…

：Hehehe
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…

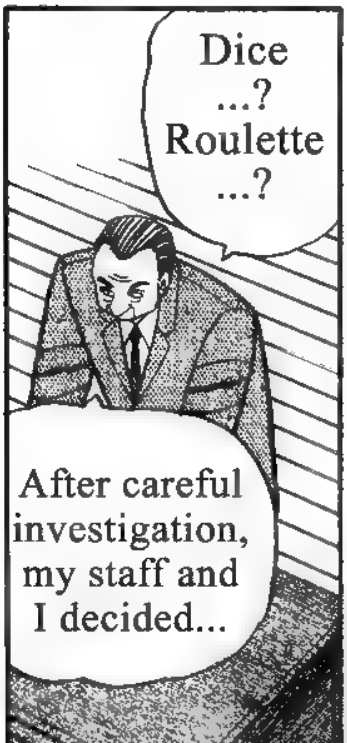
Ah
...

Look
at
these
...

No
way
...

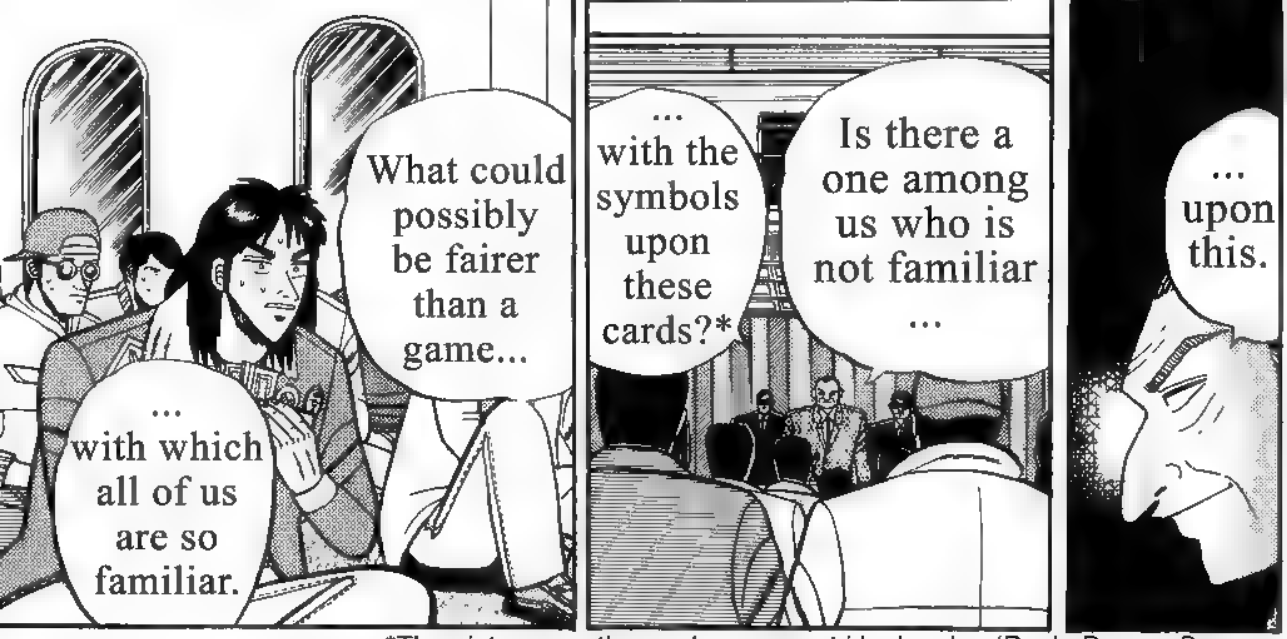
In
tonight's
games...
...
these
cards
shall
be the
hands...
...
which
hold
your fate
in their
grasp..

G
C
P
What are they ...!?

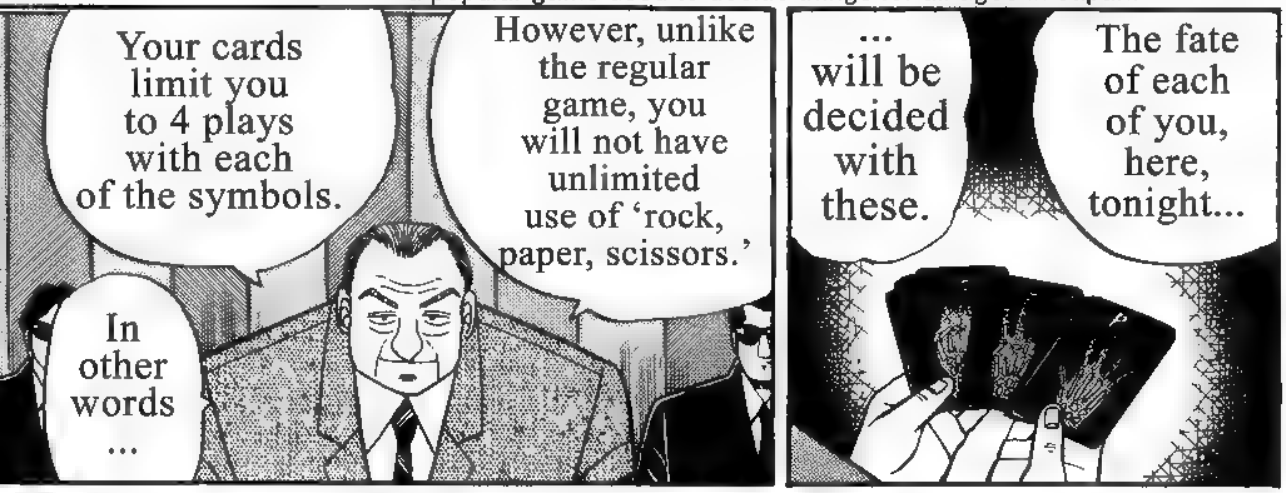

Dice ...? Roulette ...?
After careful investigation, my staff and I decided...

... that would be fair...
What sort of game could we play...
... to everyone involved ...?

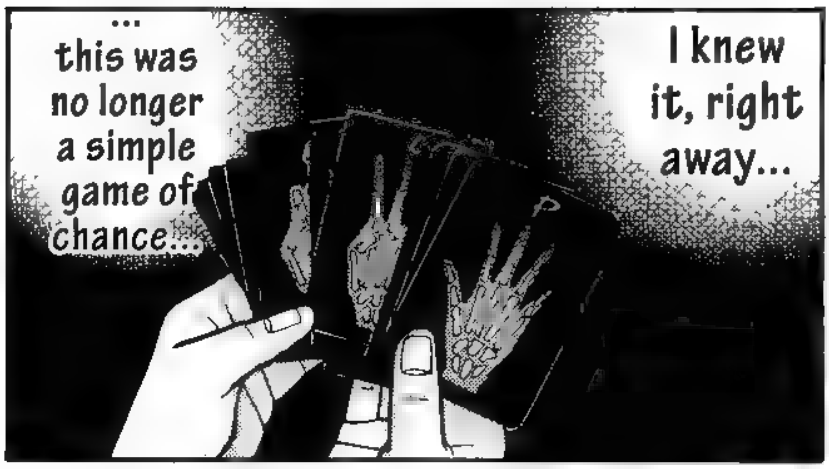
We thought very carefully about this...


What could possibly be fairer than a game...
... with which all of us are so familiar.
Is there a one among us who is not familiar ...
... with the symbols upon these cards?*
... upon this.

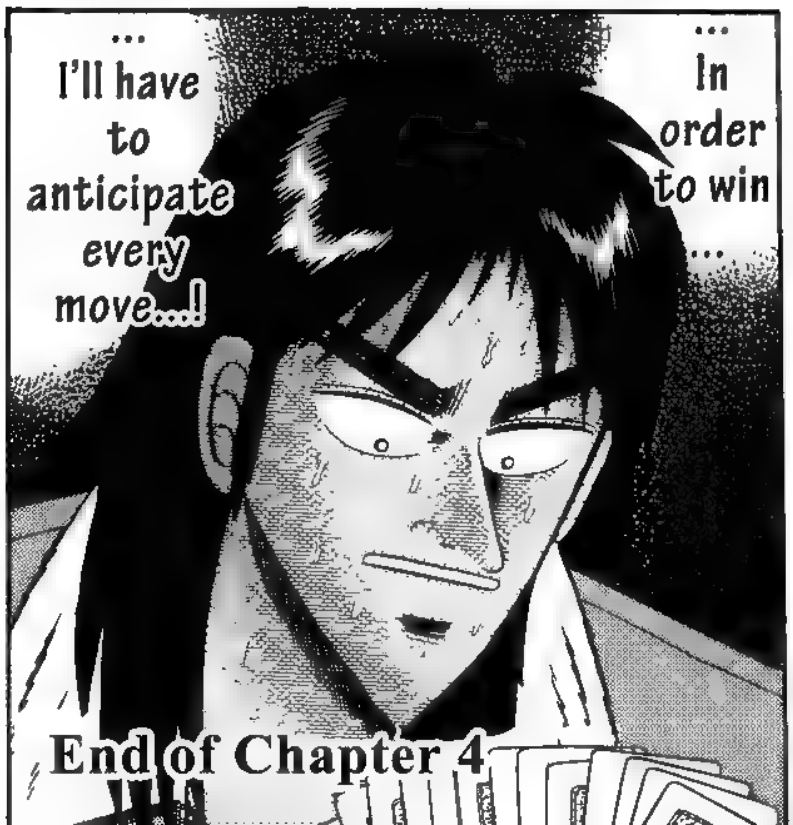
*The pictures on the cards represent 'Janken,' or 'Rock, Paper, Scissors,' a popular game used to decide things for all ages in Japan.


Your cards limit you to 4 plays with each of the symbols.
However, unlike the regular game, you will not have unlimited use of 'rock, paper, scissors.'
In other words ...
... will be decided with these.
The fate of each of you, here, tonight...

This will limit your strategies.
In other words ...
... do you understand ...?
Only 'scissors' and 'paper' will be left to you, so...
If you begin by playing four 'rock' in a row...
In tonight's game you will not have unlimited plays of each...
I repeat .
... you will be unable to play 'rock' for the rest of the night.

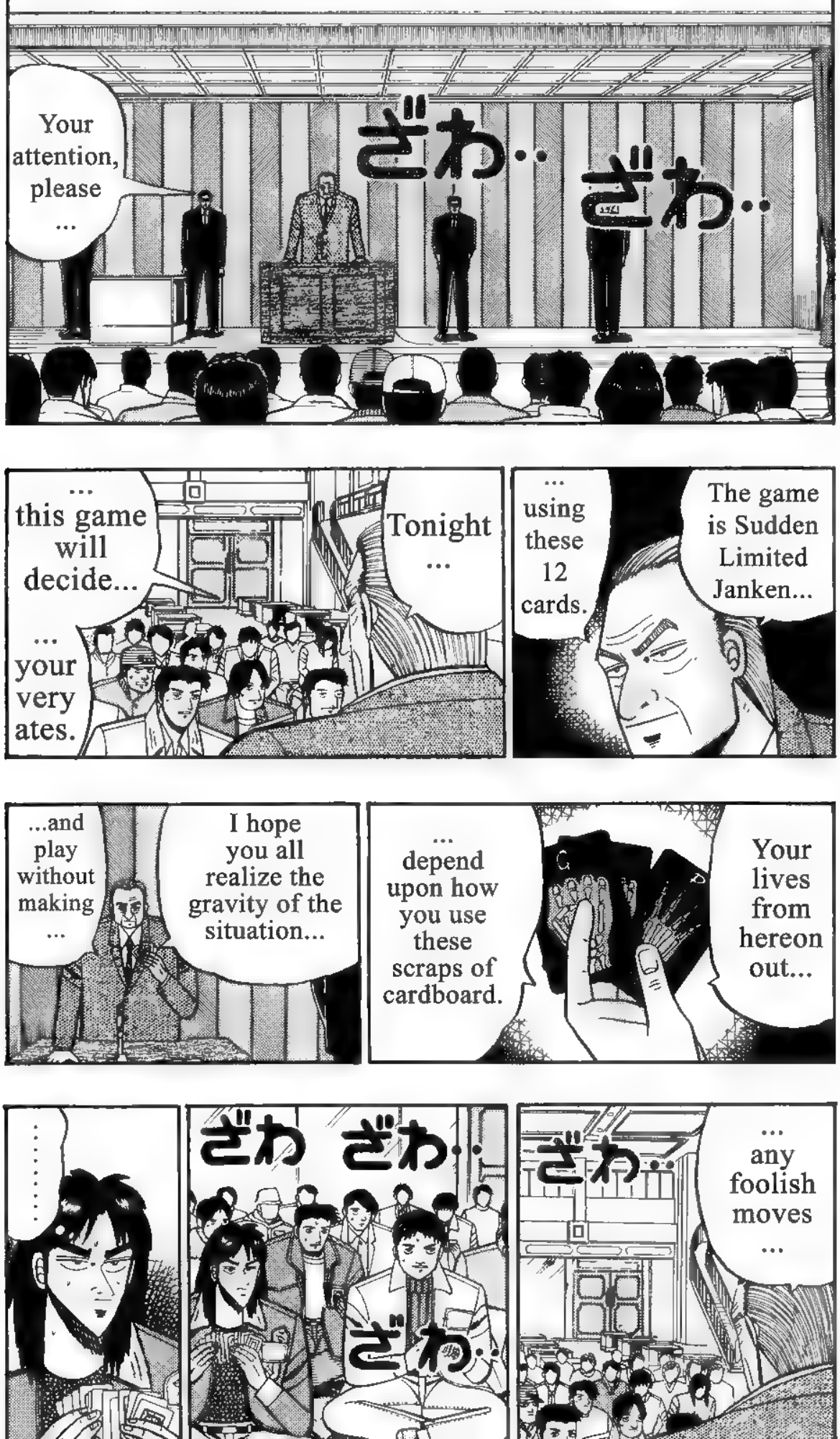



Limited...

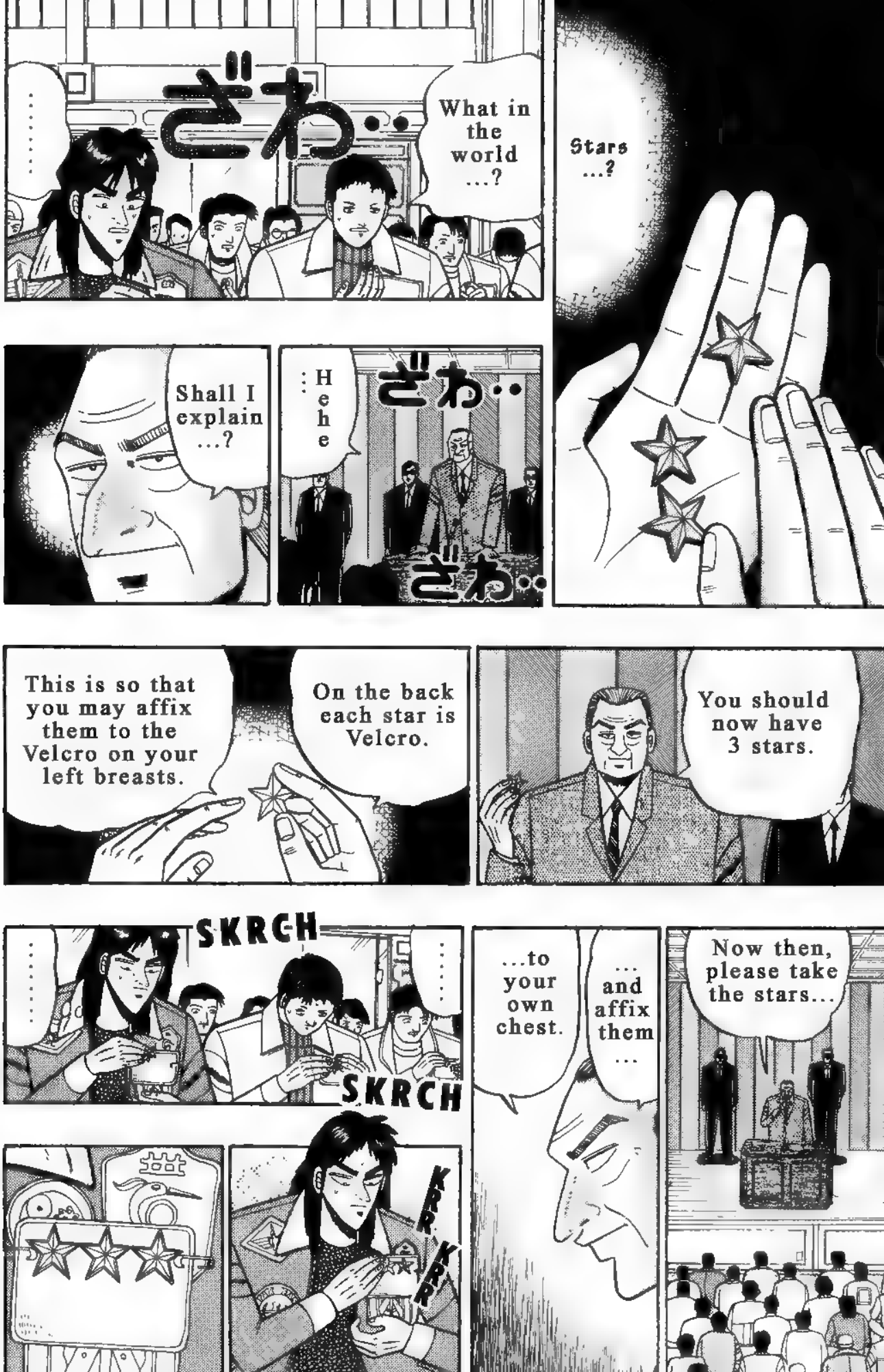



...morons will drop out.

# Chapter 5: Playtime


Your attention, please ...
ざわ‥ ざわ‥
... this game will decide... ... your very ates.
Tonight ...
... using these 12 cards.
The game is Sudden Limited Janken...
...and play without making ...
I hope you all realize the gravity of the situation...
... depend upon how you use these scraps of cardboard.
Your lives from hereon out...
……
ざわ ざわ‥
ざわ‥
ざわ‥
... any foolish moves ...

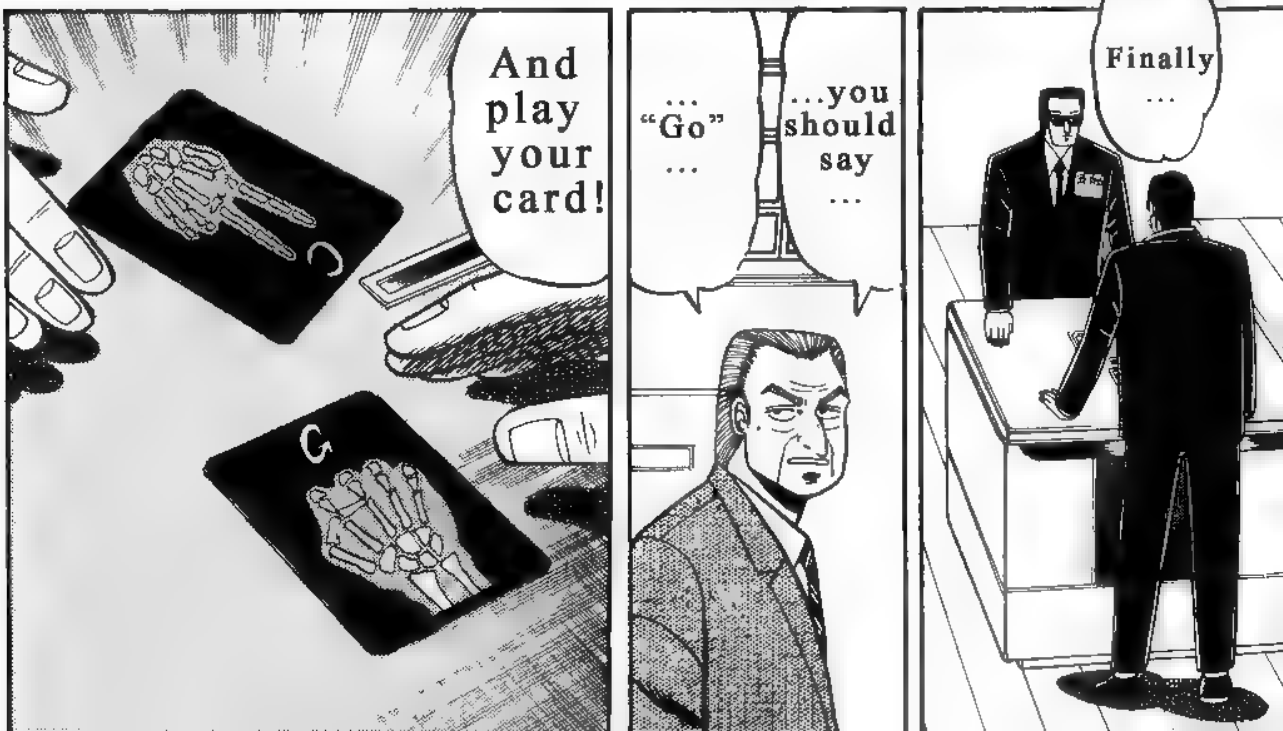
Now then.
.....
Please open them now.
You should have all received a 'B' envelope as well...
B
when you entered
...we have these.
Next ...
B
Ah...
KRRRR
KRRRR
KRRRR
B


.....
ざわ..
What in the world ...?
Stars ...?
Shall I explain ...?
He he
ざわ..
ざわ..
This is so that you may affix them to the Velcro on your left breasts.
On the back each star is Velcro.
You should now have 3 stars.
.....
SKRCH
SKRCH
.....
...to your own chest.
... and affix them ...
Now then, please take the stars...
KRR KRR

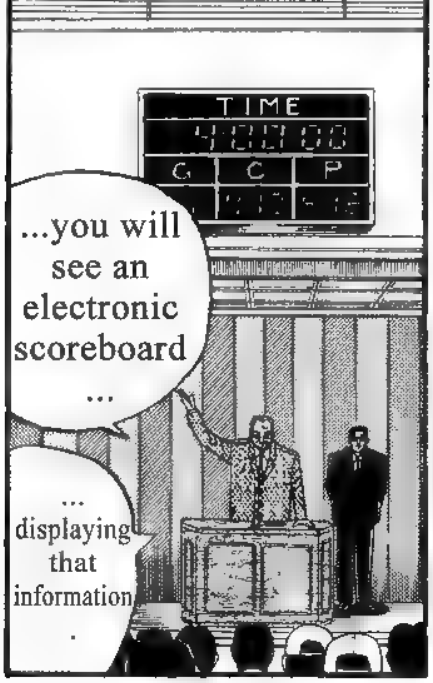
Preparations for tonight's game are now complete.
That's all...
ざわ..
:Hmph
ざわ..
You will use these cards to play Janken...
To sum up...
ざわ..
ざわ..
It's a simple game.
The simplest, perhaps.
...the stars attached to...
...your opponents chests.
...in order to scuffle over...
...you'll see the 14 boxes where you'll play, one-on-one...
If you all look behind ...
...as my assistants are demonstrating .
Just like so ...
First of all ...
A game of Janken with our special cards.
Now then ...

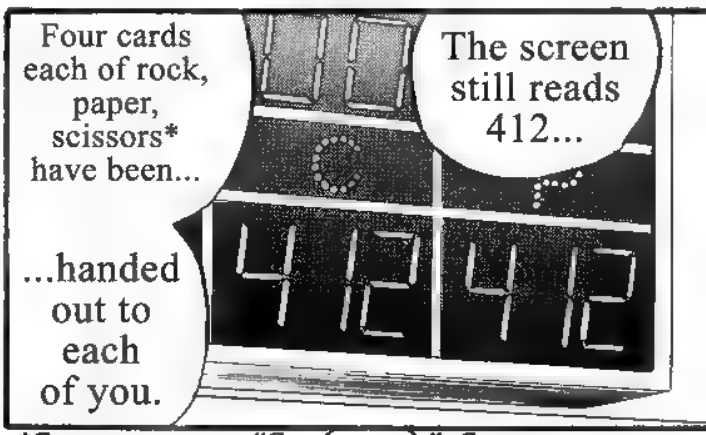
First ...
...after you've agreed to a match ...
... "Check" ...
...you should say ...
Next, you should each choose the cards you will play...
...and hold them by the side of your face like so.

Then ...
... after you say ...
... "Set" ...
...you should lay your cards ...
...face down on top of the box.

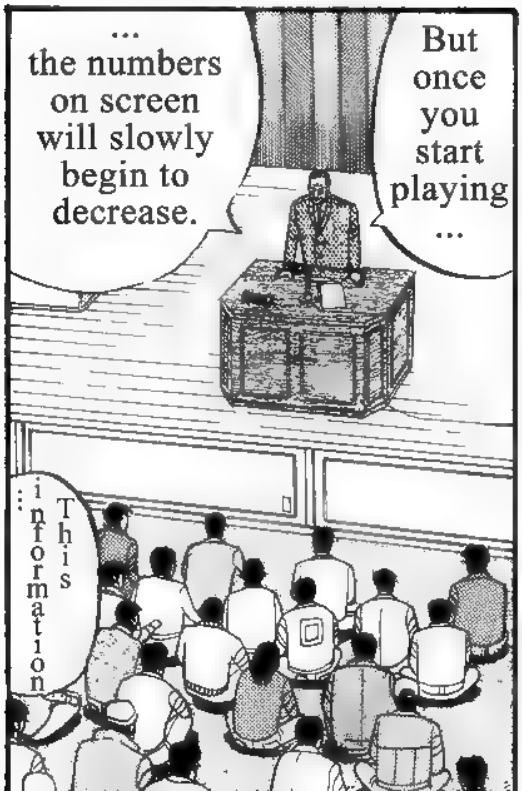

Finally ...
...you should say ...
... "Go" ...
And play your card!

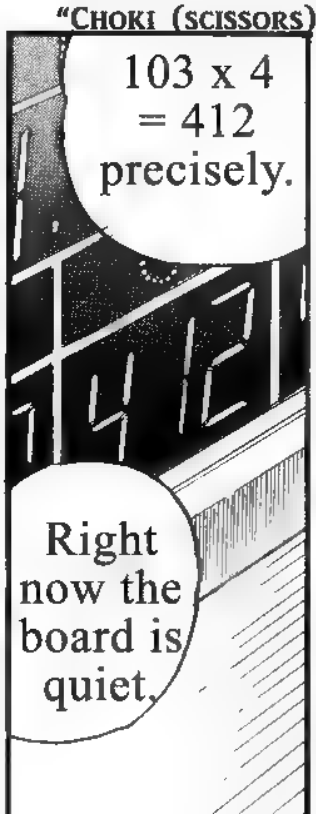
...then the winner will take one star from the loser's chest...
...and affix it to his own.
But if there is a winner...
...in a draw ...
If the play should end ...
...no stars are exchanged .
That is all.
...once a card has been played...
Additionally ...
...may choose your opponents freely...
...as long as you continue to play.
All of you gathered here...
... regardless of the outcome ...
...if a card has been used once ...
...that card may not be used again .
...in the center of the box.
...those cards should be placed into the slot...
Which means ...
... or draw ...
... whether win, lose...

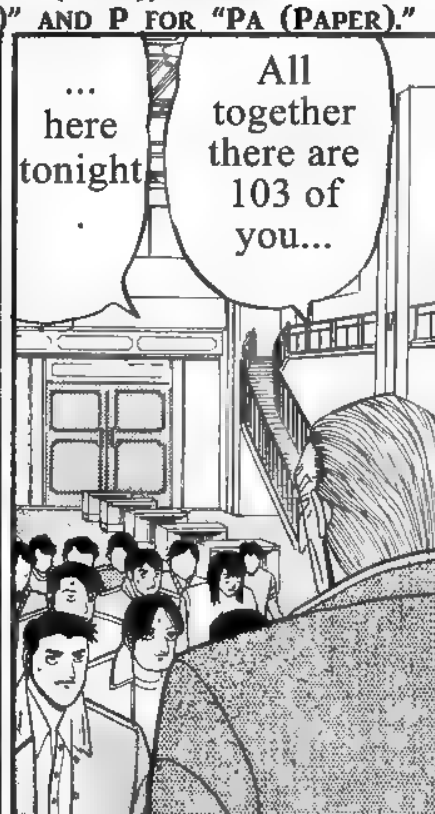


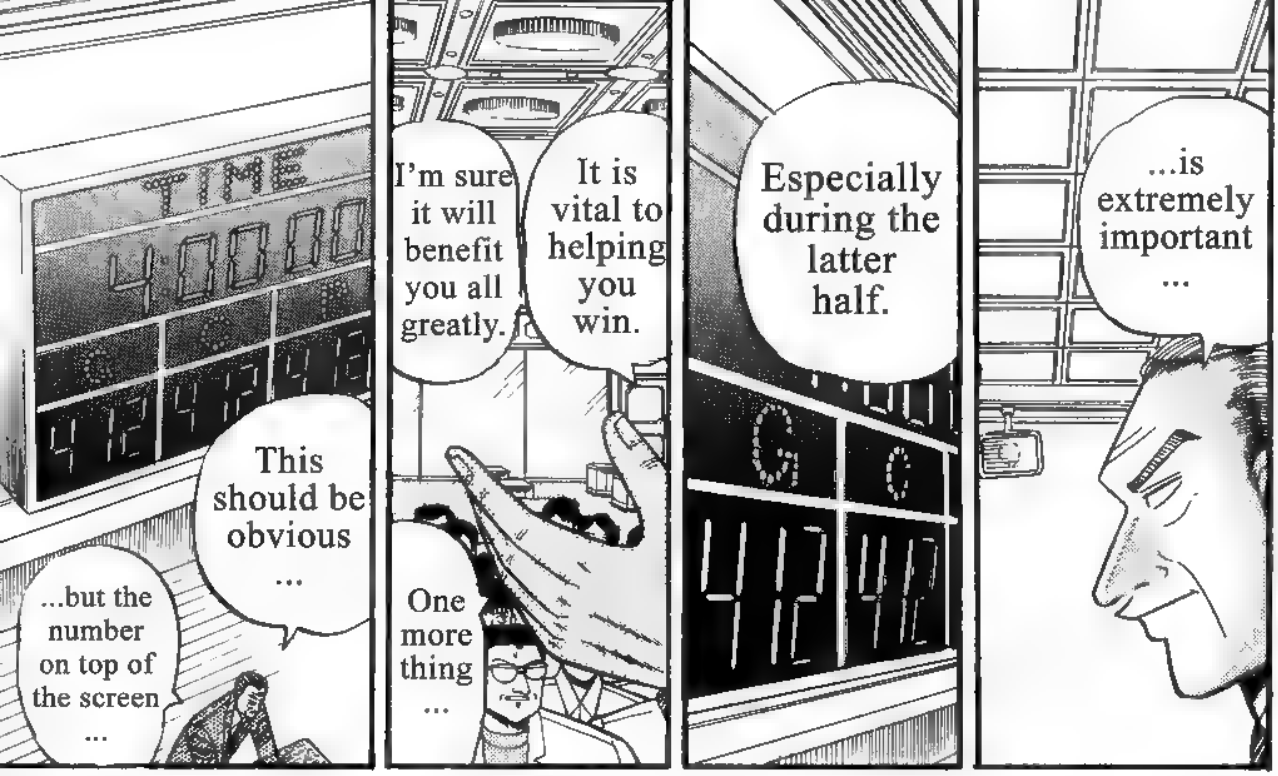


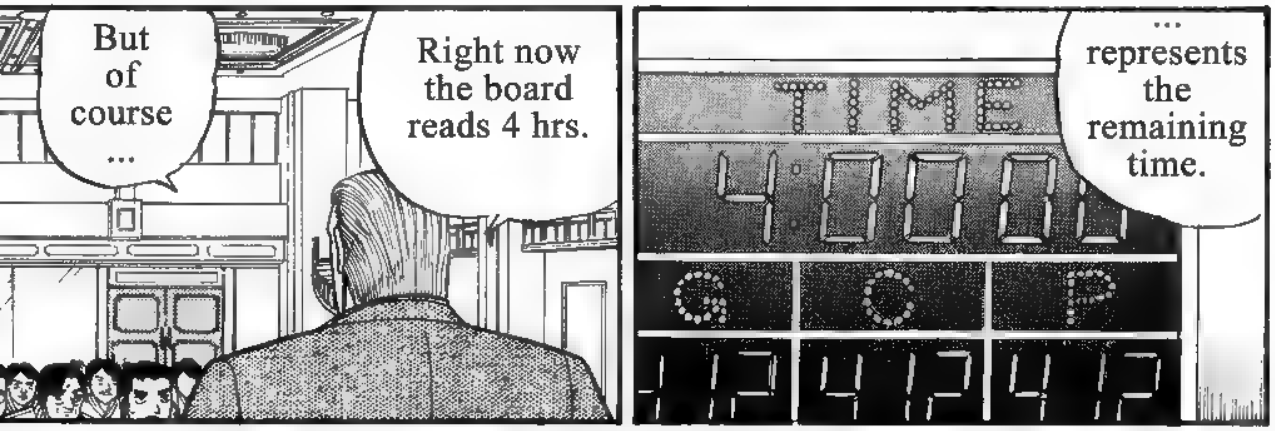

*G STANDS FOR "GU (ROCK)," C FOR "CHOKI (SCISSORS)" AND P FOR "PA (PAPER)."

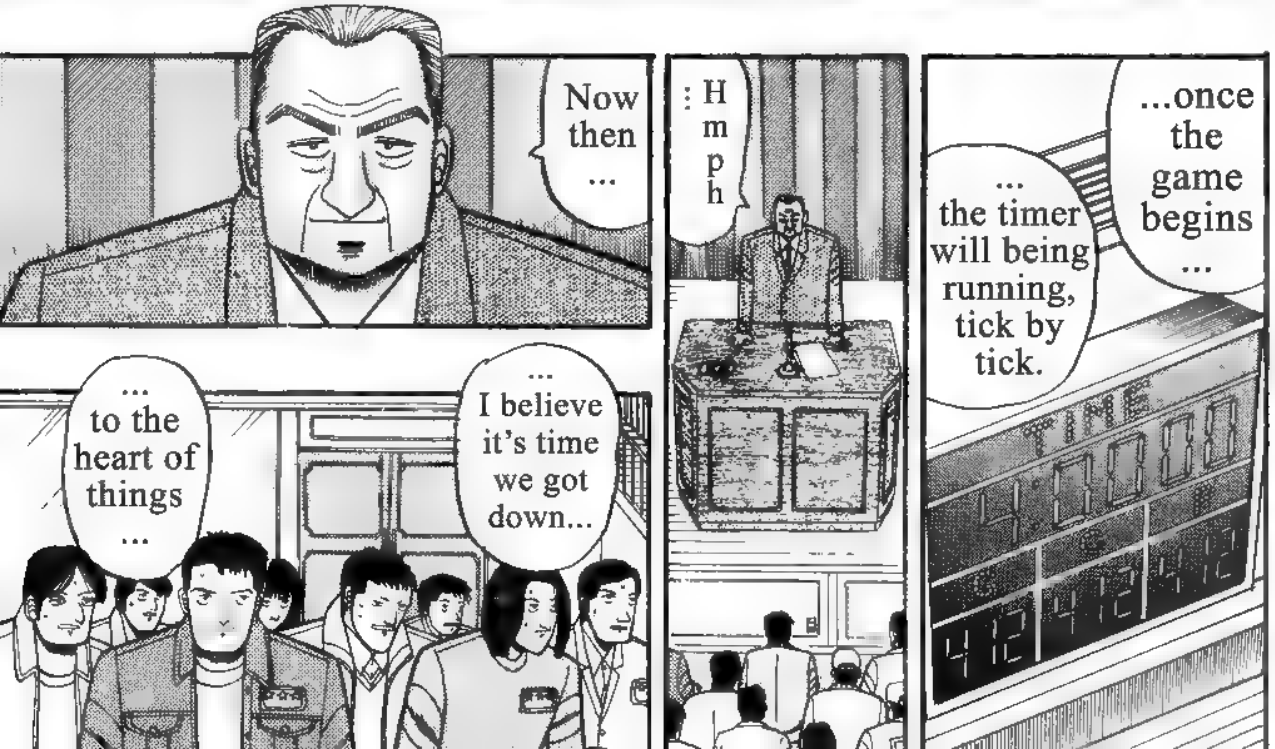


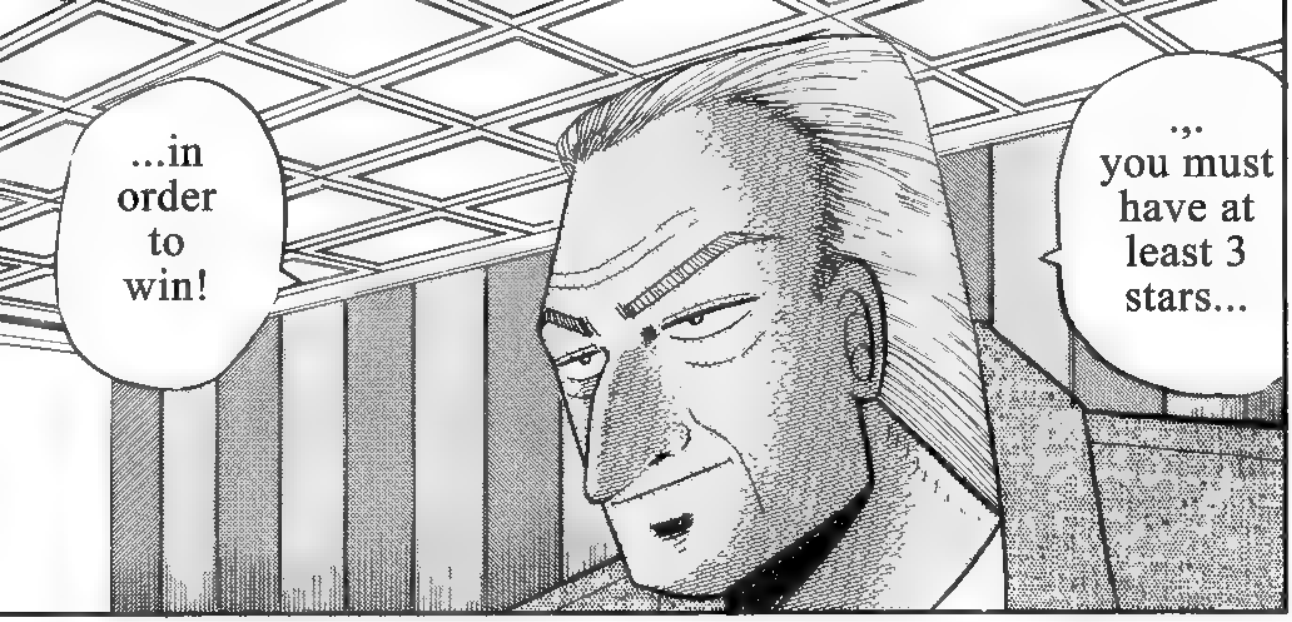



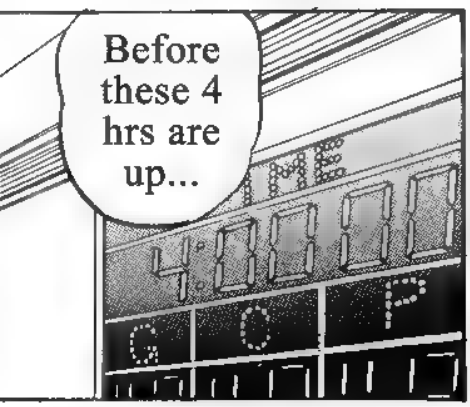

TIME
This should be obvious ...
...but the number on top of the screen ...
I'm sure it will benefit you all greatly.
It is vital to helping you win.
One more thing ...
Especially during the latter half.
...is extremely important ...


But of course ...
Right now the board reads 4 hrs.
... represents the remaining time.

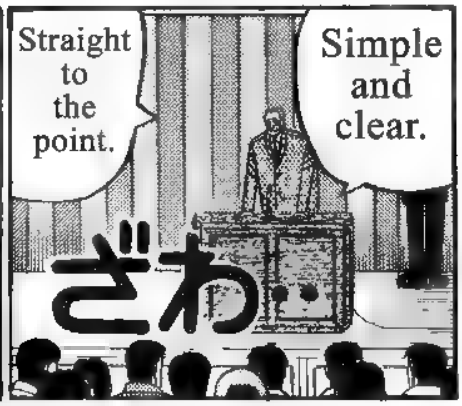

Now then ...
... to the heart of things ...
... I believe it's time we got down...
H m p h
...once the game begins ...
... the timer will being running, tick by tick.

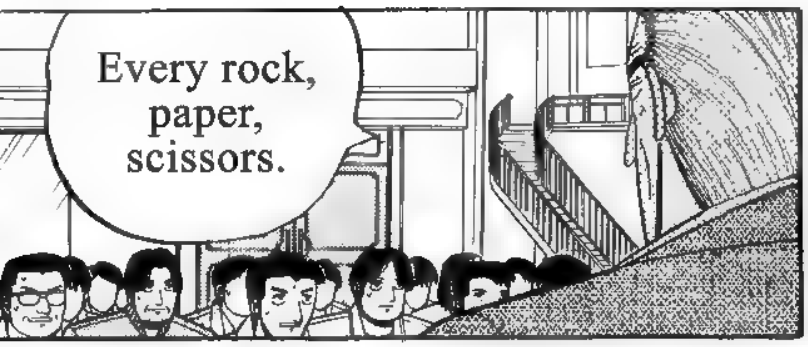
...exactly how to "win" at tonight's game.
I still haven't told you...
This is the most important point...
ざわざわ
ざわ・
... it doesn't matter what happens during the game...
During tonight's games ...
: Hmph
ざわ・・
But in the end, when the game is over...
You can lose stars along the way as long as you have at least one.
・・・・・・

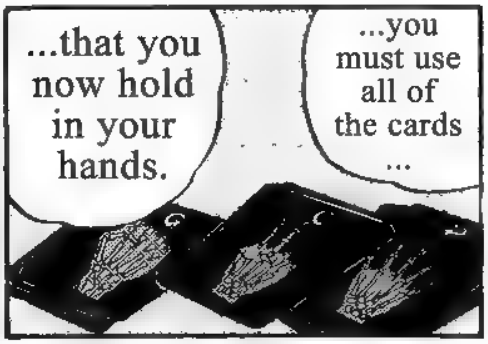

...in order to win!
... you must have at least 3 stars...


Before these 4 hrs are up...

...one final condition...
However .... there is still...


Straight to the point.
Simple and clear.
ざわ...

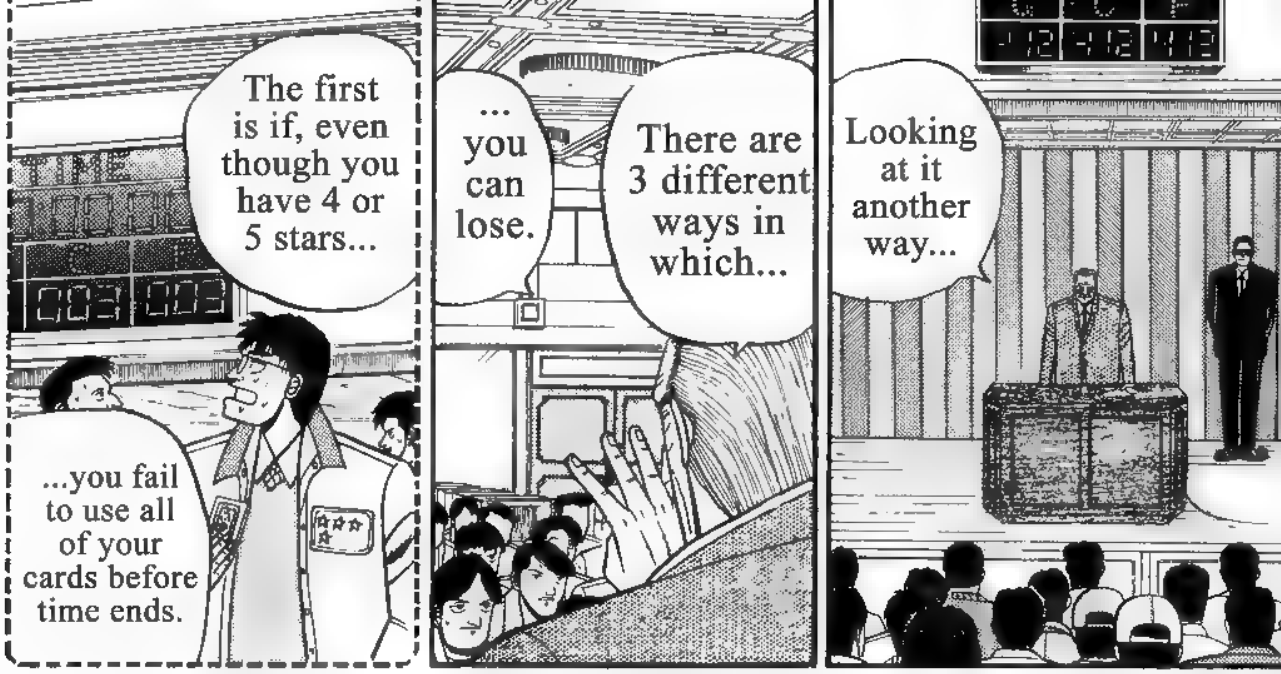

Every rock, paper, scissors.


...that you now hold in your hands.
...you must use all of the cards ...

.....

Do you understand ...?

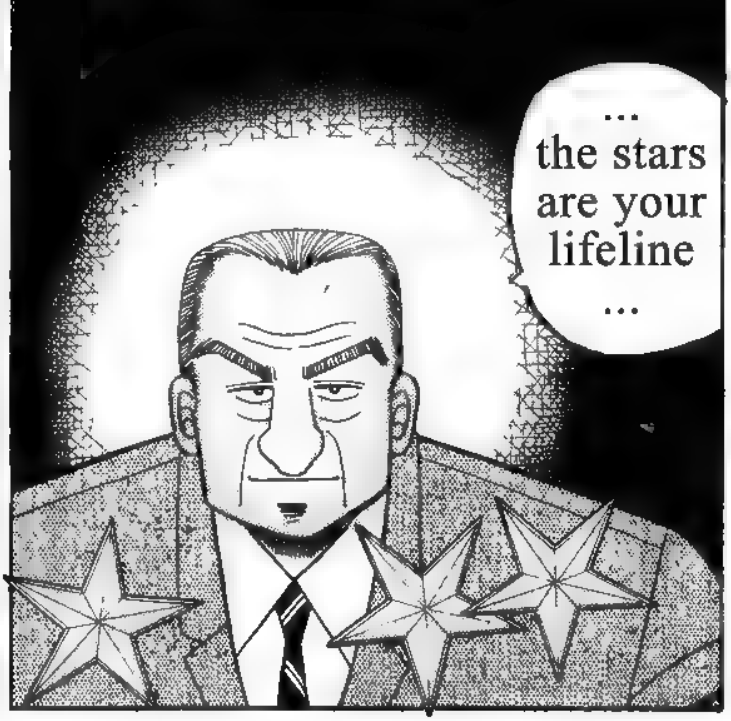
...you can't just tear up the rest of your cards and decide you don't need them anymore.
Say you have five stars...


The first is if, even though you have 4 or 5 stars...
...you fail to use all of your cards before time ends.
... you can lose.
There are 3 different ways in which...
Looking at it another way...

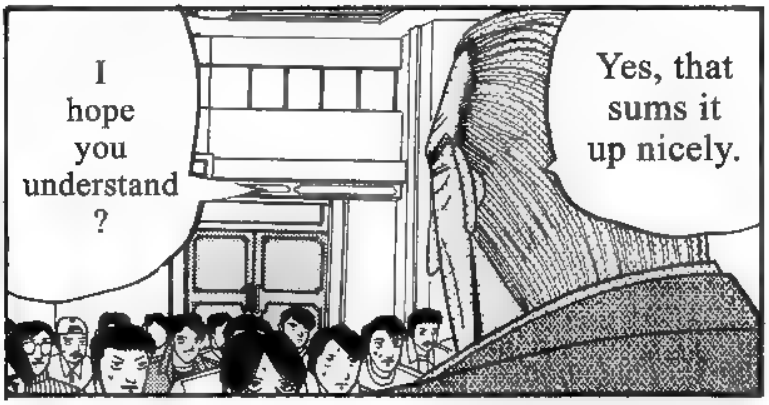
... the third way to lose ...
And finally ...
... you only have 2 or fewer stars.
The second is if, when time is up...

You might say...
... that in tonight's game ...
...but you lose all 3 of your stars These are the 3 ways...
...in which you can lose.
...and plenty of time remains on the clock...
...is if you still have cards left ...
... in other words, the game hasn't ended yet ...

...
and the cards represent chance
...


...
the stars are your lifeline
...

...should a participant be removed partway through
...
Additionally
...


I hope you understand ?
Yes, that sums it up nicely.

There's no reason to worry on that account ....

...so as to avoid any confusion ...
... will be put into a box by our hands ...
...over the remaining cards.

...any cards which they were unable to use...

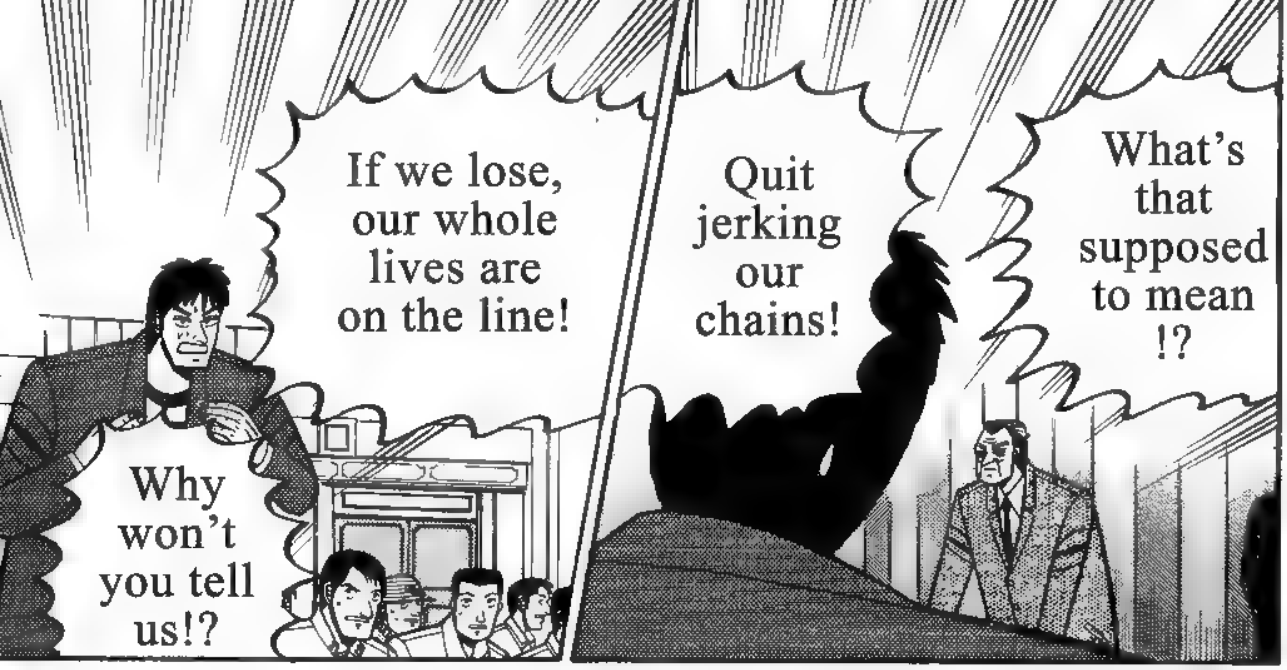
ざわ・・・
Wha ...?

BOW
:yTohuank

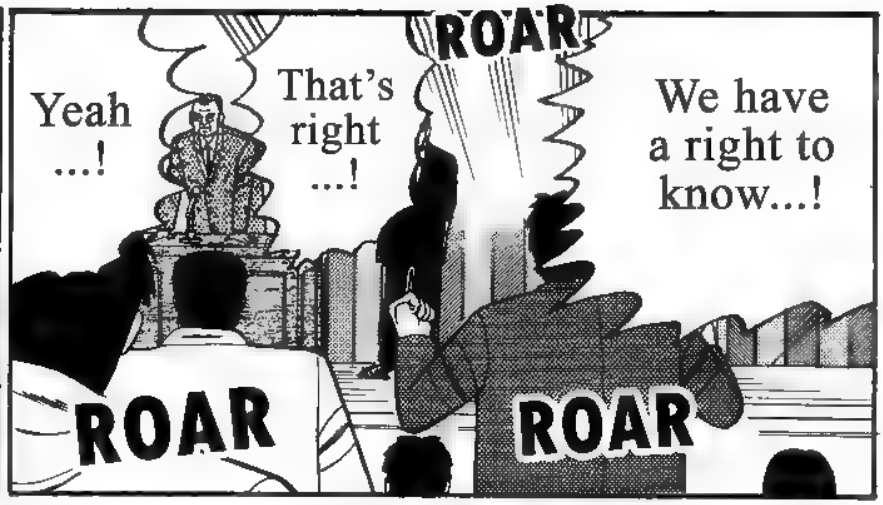
...my instructions for tonight.
That concludes ...
No way—....!
Ahh ...
ざわ‥ ざわ‥
ざわ‥
...the best of luck ahead.
I wish you all ...
...with all that money we borrowed ...!?
What should we do ...
What about the money ...!?
SWOOSH
H... Hold on...!

Huh ...?
Whatever you please.
HMPH
I believe I told you, when we began ...
...that I would explain only once...
... and would not be answering any questions.
What happens if we lose ...!?
GASP
What's that supposed to mean...?
... please decide for yourselves how best to use it.
For ourselves ...?
As for the money ...
The yakuza who got me on here told me ask you guys!
I'd like to know that, myself...
Ah ...
Tell me ...!
I wanna hear what happens to us if we lose...!

My apologies ...
But I cannot answer ...
...any questions .
W-Wha ..
ざわ‥
ざわ ざわ‥
Huh ..


If we lose, our whole lives are on the line!
Why won't you tell us!?
Quit jerking our chains!
What's that supposed to mean !?

Ahhh


Yeah ...!
That's right ...!
ROAR
We have a right to know...!
ROAR
ROAR

Wha ...?

ROAR
Shut up!15
Yeah ...!
ROAR

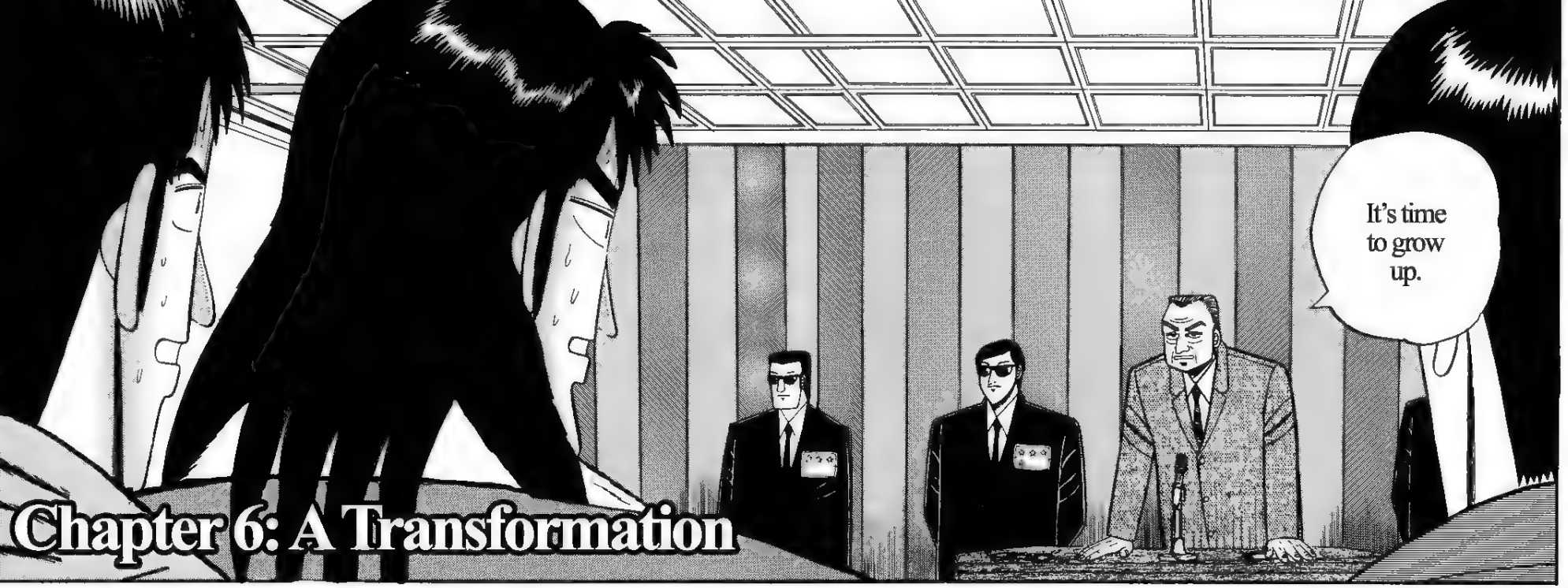
You worthless trash ...
I oughta kick your butts...

This guy ...
ざわ..
Ahh ...
ざわ..
ざわ..
Ah ...
End of Chapter 5

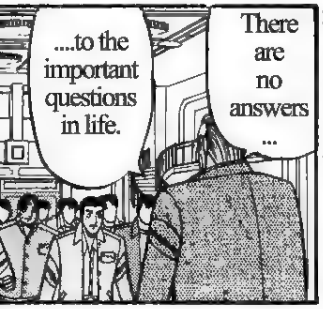
ざわ…ざわ…ざわ…

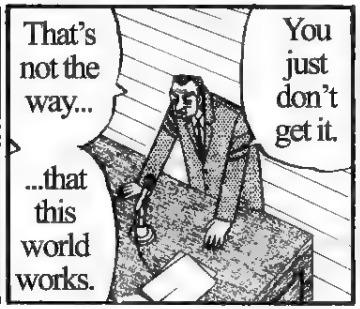
You don't know jack about the real world.
...some childish delusion ...
All of you are under...

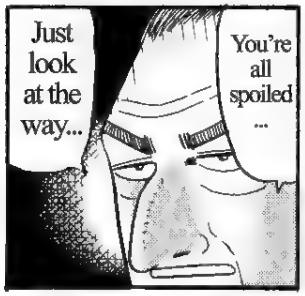
It's disgraceful ...!
... anything you want.
You think the world is ready to fall all over itself...
3 or 4-year-olds.
You're like little infants.
Ahh ...
...to get you jerks ...
Face it...
You think the world revolves around you...

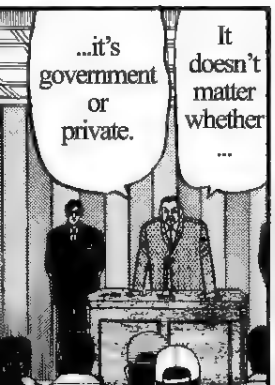


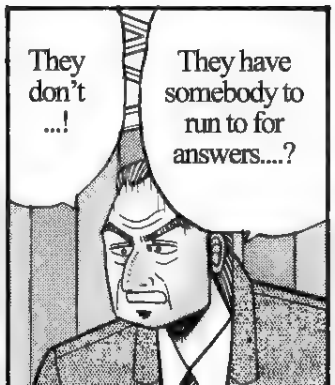

# Chapter 6: A Transformation

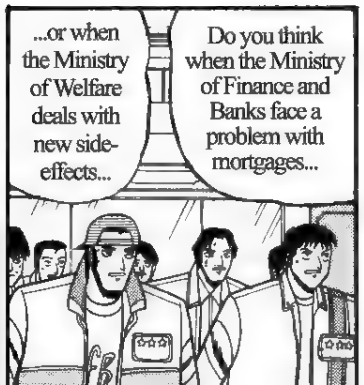


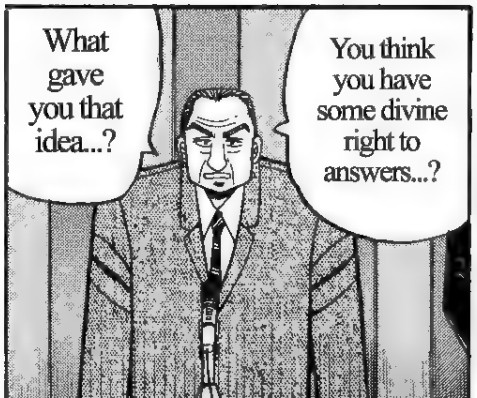



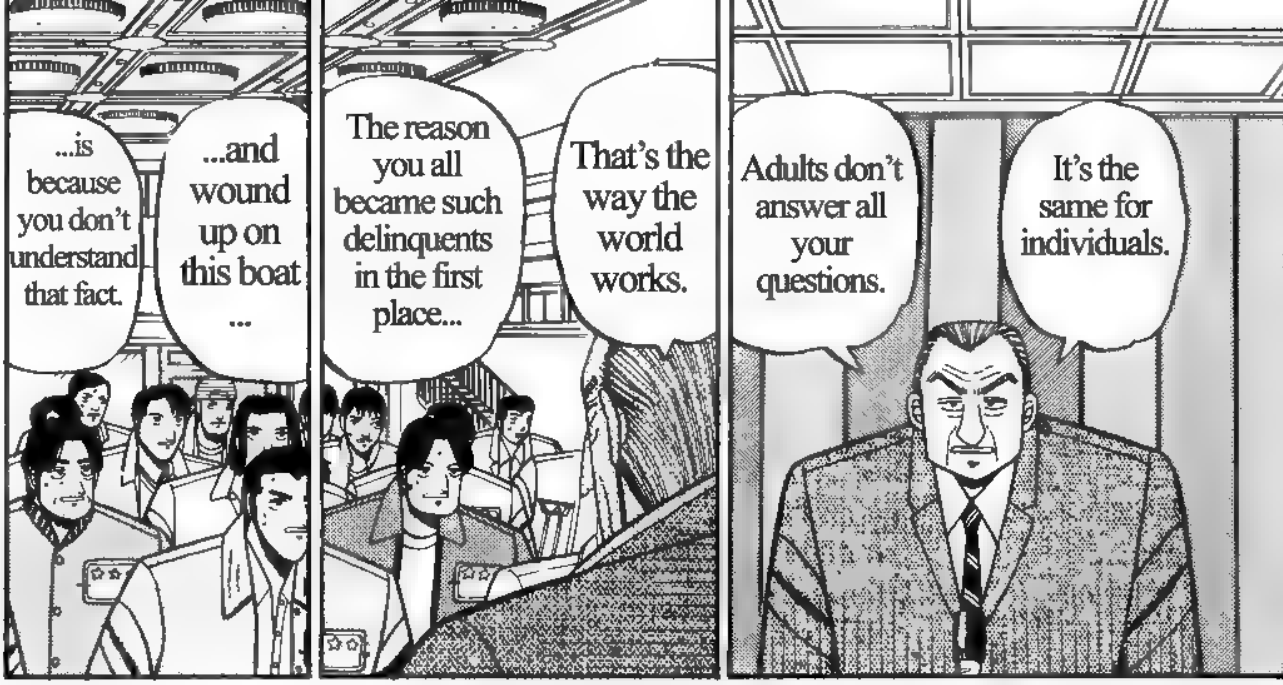


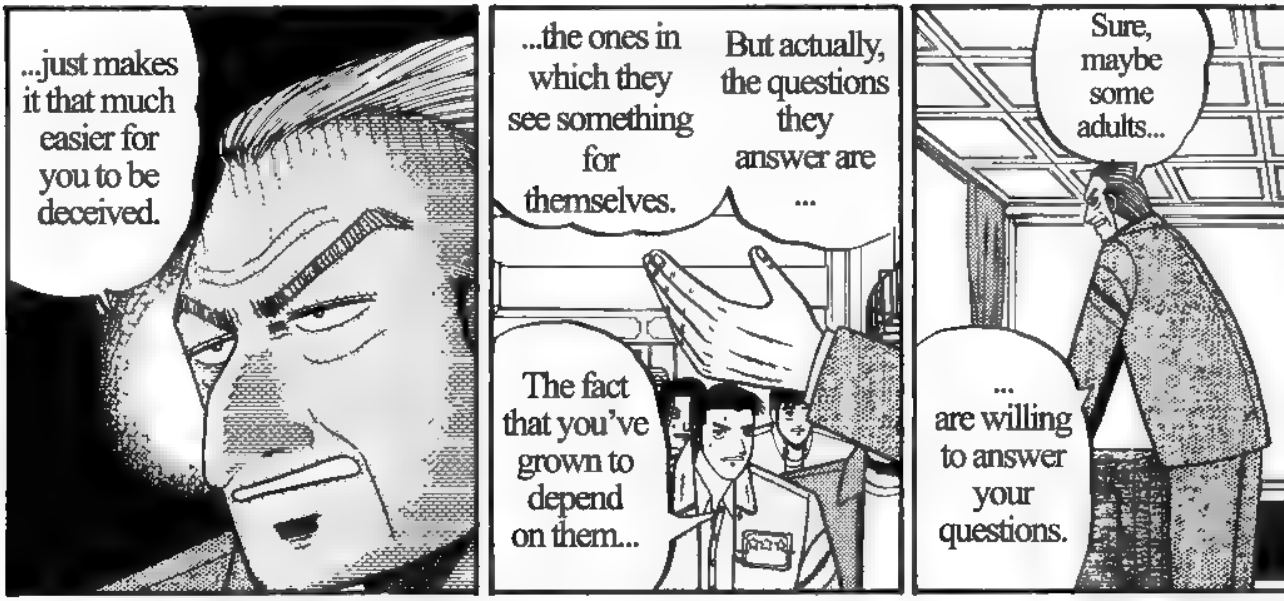


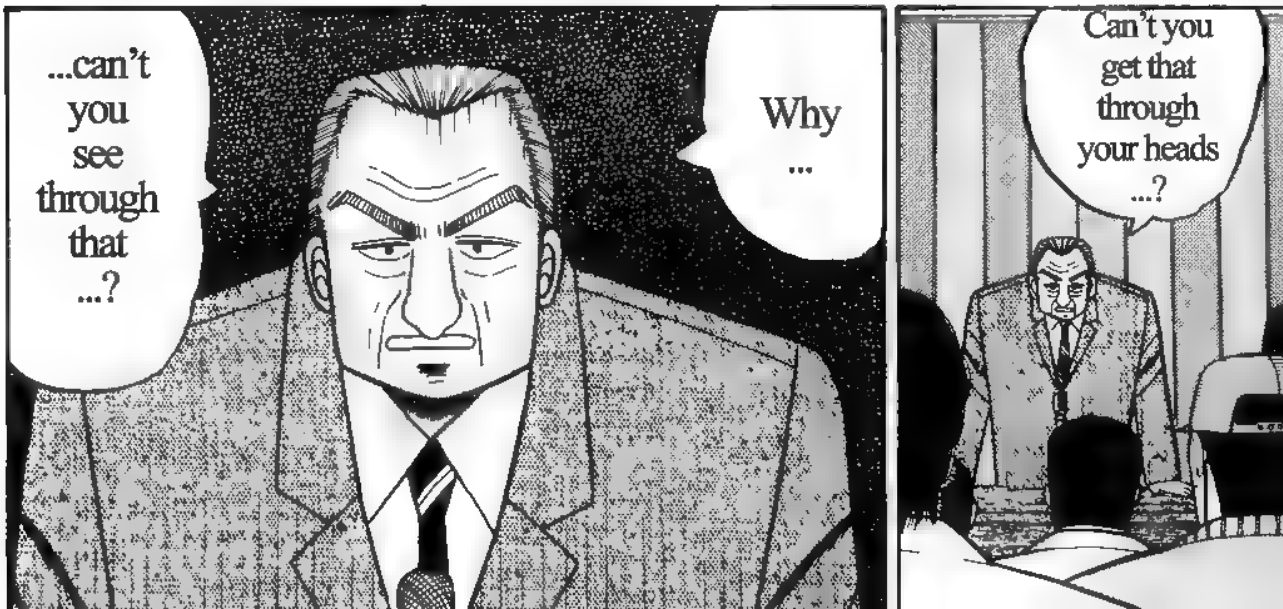





Do you think when the Ministry of Finance and Banks face a problem with mortgages...
...or when the Ministry of Welfare deals with new side-effects...



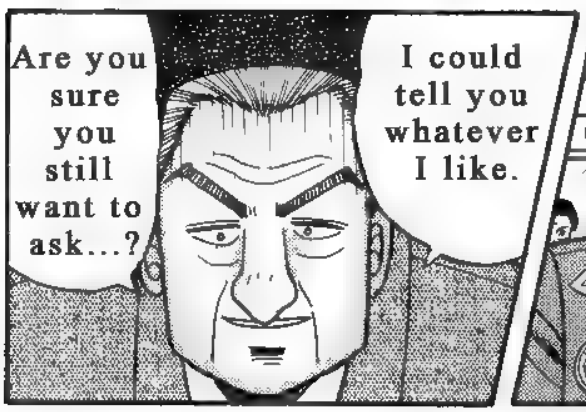

...is because you don't understand that fact.
...and wound up on this boat ...
The reason you all became such delinquents in the first place...
That's the way the world works.
Adults don't answer all your questions.
It's the same for individuals.


...just makes it that much easier for you to be deceived.
...the ones in which they see something for themselves.
But actually, the questions they answer are ...
The fact that you've grown to depend on them...
Sure, maybe some adults...
... are willing to answer your questions.


...can't you see through that ...?
Why ...
Can't you get that through your heads ...?

Ah...
ざわ…
……
...answer your questions...
It's pretty easy to...
...if I chose.
ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
...But that doesn't matter.
How would you know...
But...
...that what I was telling you...
How long of a stay...
Your food... Sleeping arrangements...
Yeah, I could tell you all about it.
What kind of facility do you go to...
What happens if you lose...
How many hours do you work...

... was even the truth ...?


Are you sure you still want to ask...?
I could tell you whatever I like.

Hehehe
ざわ・・ざわ・・・

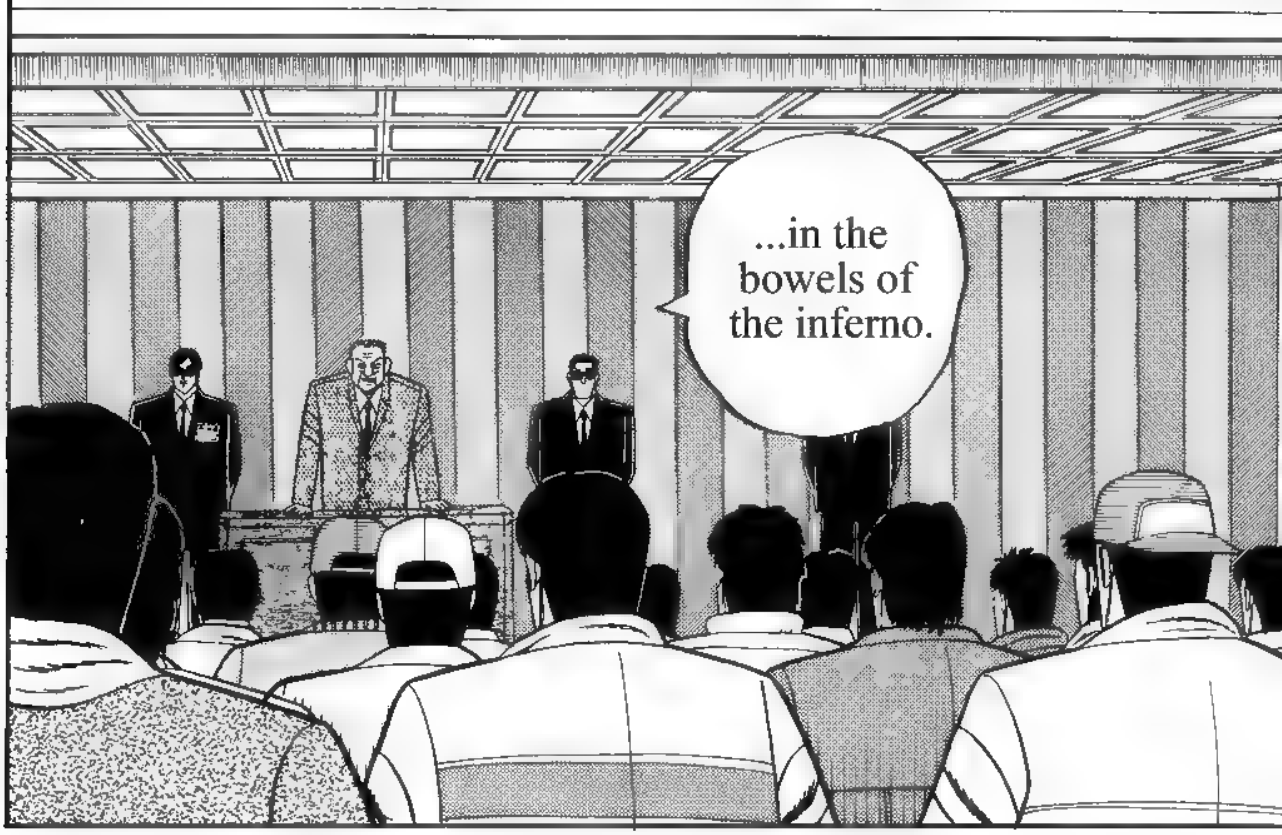
ざわ・・・

...there is no way for you to be sure of anything I say.
Now that you've all boarded this ship...

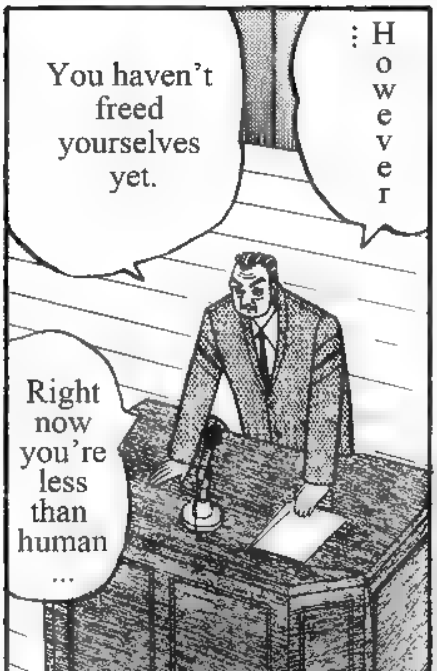
...is just a ruse meant to reassure you.
Whatever fairytale I choose to tell you...
...but to blindly believe whatever I say.
: Meaning
What it boils down to is...
... that you have no option ...
ざわ...
Do you see ...?
I can't believe ...
Ngh ...
ざわ... ざわ...
There's no more guarantee about what they've got waiting ...
This means ...
B- But ...
... like this ...!
...he's speaking to us ...
We could be heading towards ....

...the worst hell on earth...!
ざわ・・・
You're monsters ...!
This is crazy...
...How dare you ...!
How ...
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・

Huh ...?
This is all a ploy ...!
No way ...!
You won't get away with this...
...by making us as terrified as possible of whatever's waiting for us.
You just wanna start off ...
Very good.
I see. I see.
Hehehe
That way, when we arrive, even if it's pretty bad people won't complain...
...should you lose the game tonight.
Imagine that Hell isn't something that is waiting for you...
But now I have...
... a scenario for you.
You have quite...
... the imagination
Rather, at this very moment...
...you are all already ...


...in the bowels of the inferno.

Huh ...?


: However
You haven't freed yourselves yet.
Right now you're less than human ...

A light by which half of you...
...may be able to haul yourselves free of this pit...

However, a thread of light remains ...

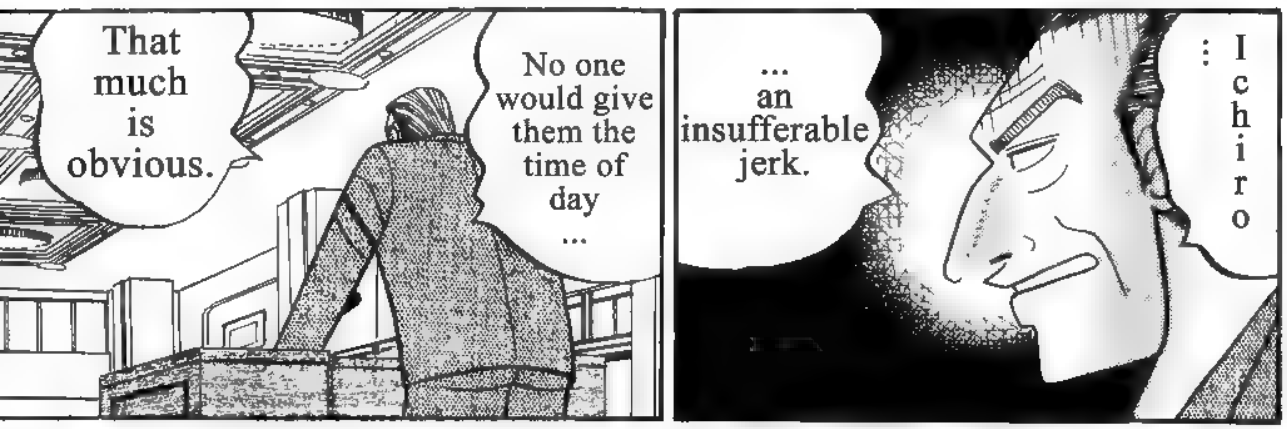
Life and your rights as a human being will be yours once again.
... you may return to the world of the living.
The moment you do draw yourself up...
... struggling to free yourselves from the mud.
A pack of damned corpses ...
But first you have to win...!
Your fate is of no concern of mine.
The worthless get exactly what they deserve...
Each of you has fought against life.
Fought and lost all the way and wound up here.
Those of you who persist in losing...?
Today will be your final battle, trash against trash.
Grade-A, certified trash.

... what will happen should you lose.
There is no more use in asking ...
... is to win.
Your only hope for redemption ...
... and whining will get you nowhere in life...!
Any more questions is simply whining ...
I've already spoken.
It's pointless now.
... is to win.
The only thing left to you now...
Talk until you're blue in the face, but the facts remain.
What's the point in talking?
... other things to worry about now.
You've all got...
To win!
... We are past the time of words...
More important things!

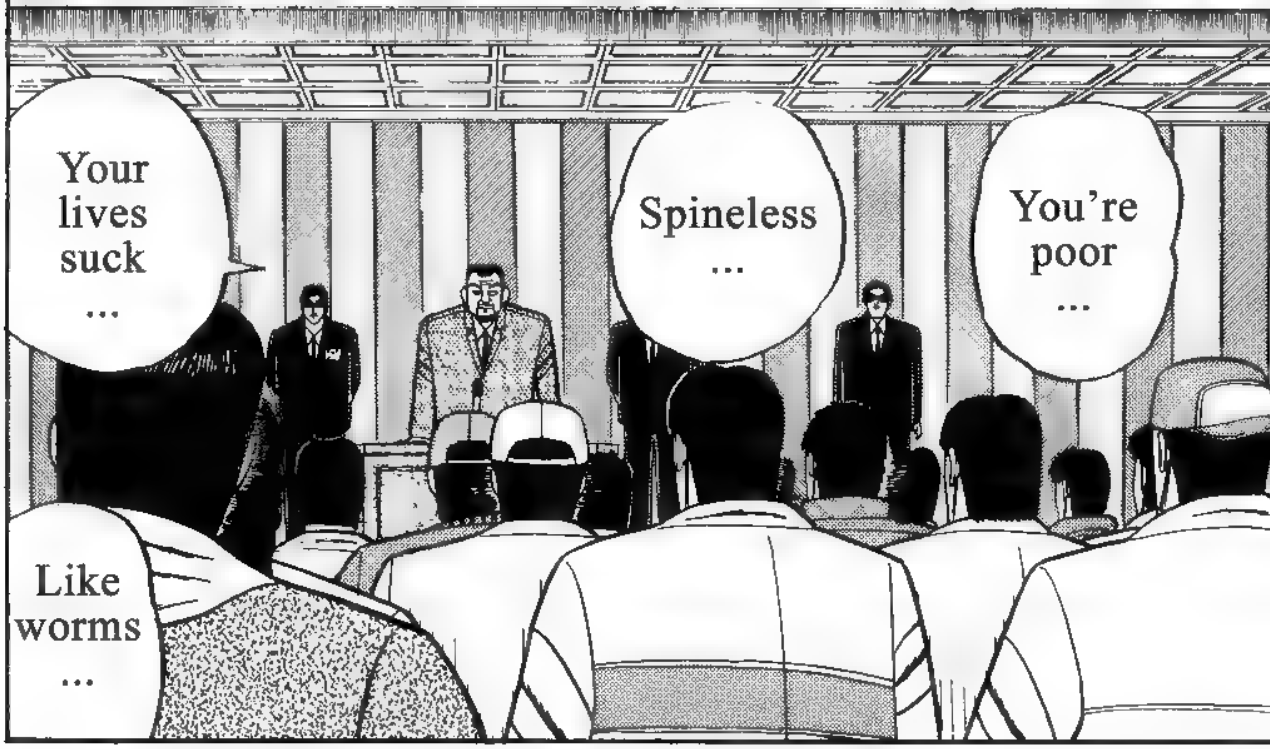
... you're here as trash.
Winning isn't "nice"...
That's why...
"Gee, gosh, winning would be nice..." That's what you're thinking.
You're all so used to losing...
... that you've forgotten the true meaning of victory.
It's your last chance ...!
Think of Nomo ...
Dodgers on the
... Habu, the Shougi player...
... or Ichiro ...

And do you know why?
The envy and admiration of all.
All three bask in the limelight ...
It's because they won...!
... are regarded to be positive and good.
It's because they are winners... ... that their lives and even their personalities ...
Don't kid yourselves.
It's not because they 'fought the good fight.'
Imagine if... ... they had lost...?

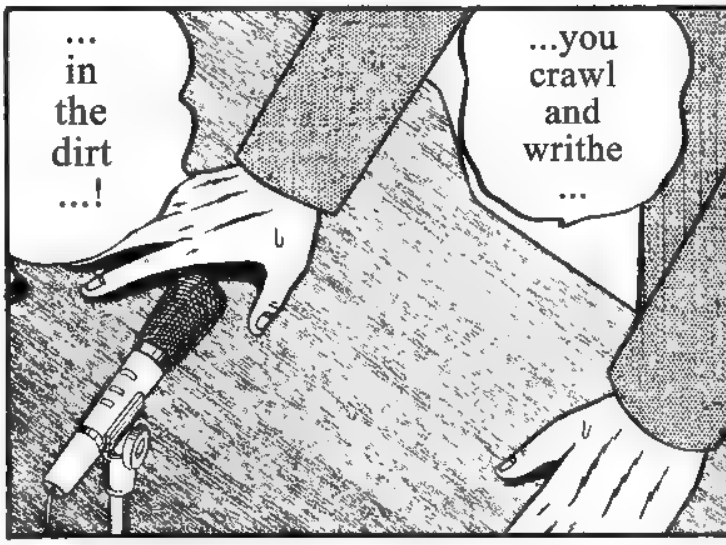
Habu, a dweeb...
People would call Nomo a simpleton ...
Dodgers
Does it even need...
... to be said?
Imagine they had spent their whole lives losing one time after another...?

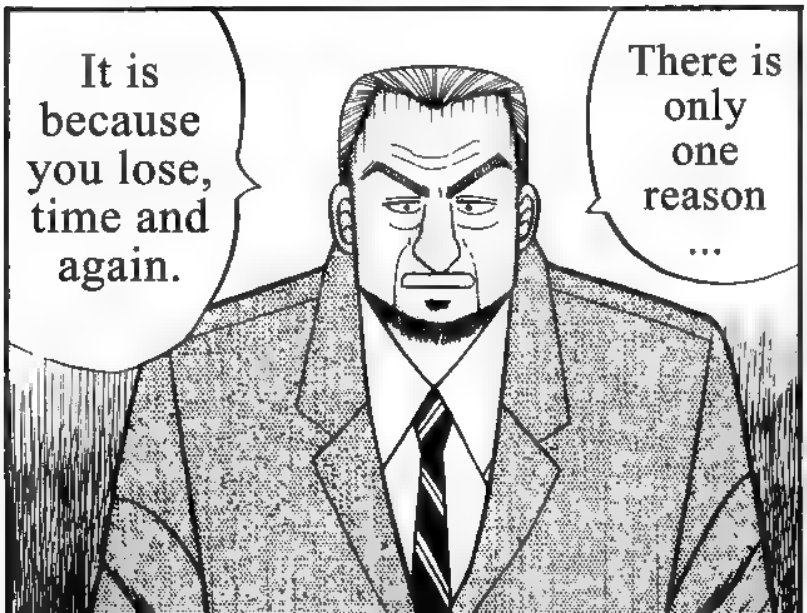

That much is obvious.
No one would give them the time of day ...
... an insufferable jerk.
: Ichiro

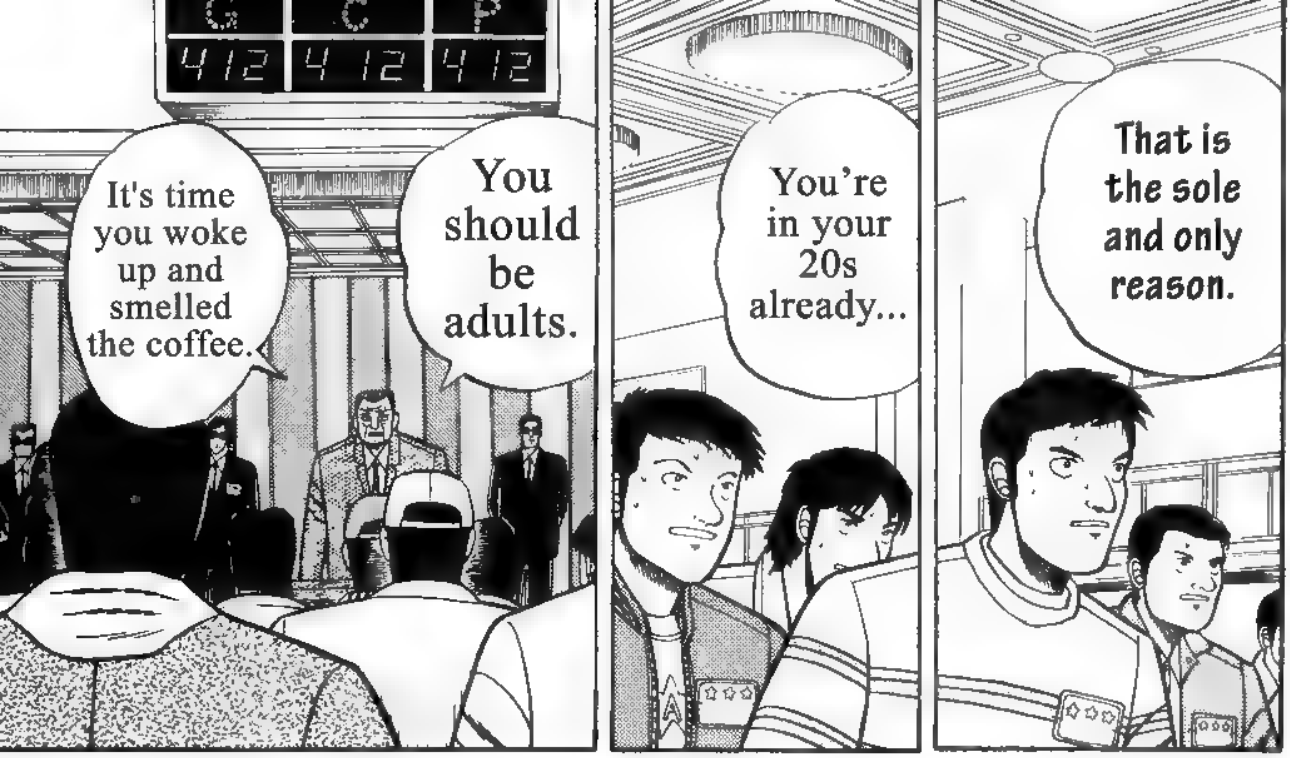
Nobody loves you ...
You are all losers ...
: Losers
Look at it from another angle.

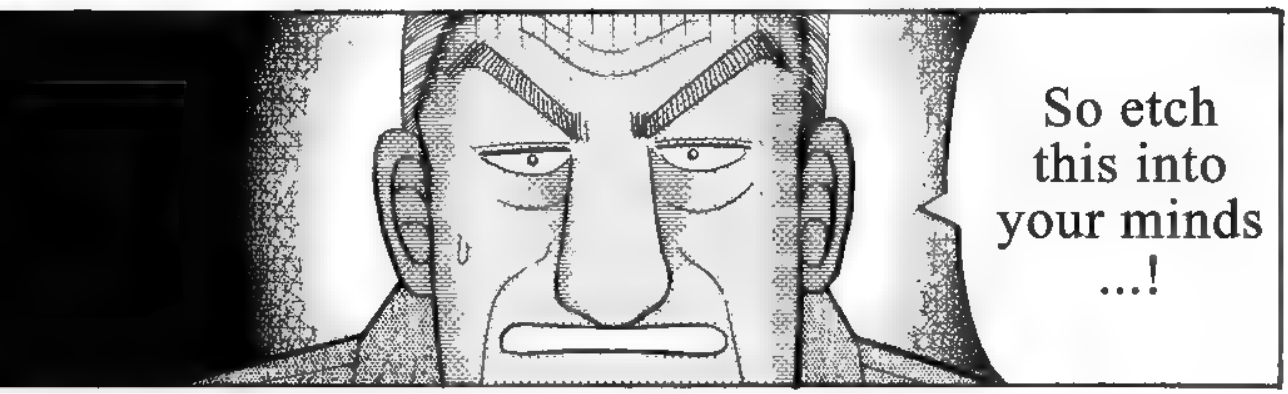

Your lives suck ...
Spineless ...
You're poor ...
Like worms ...

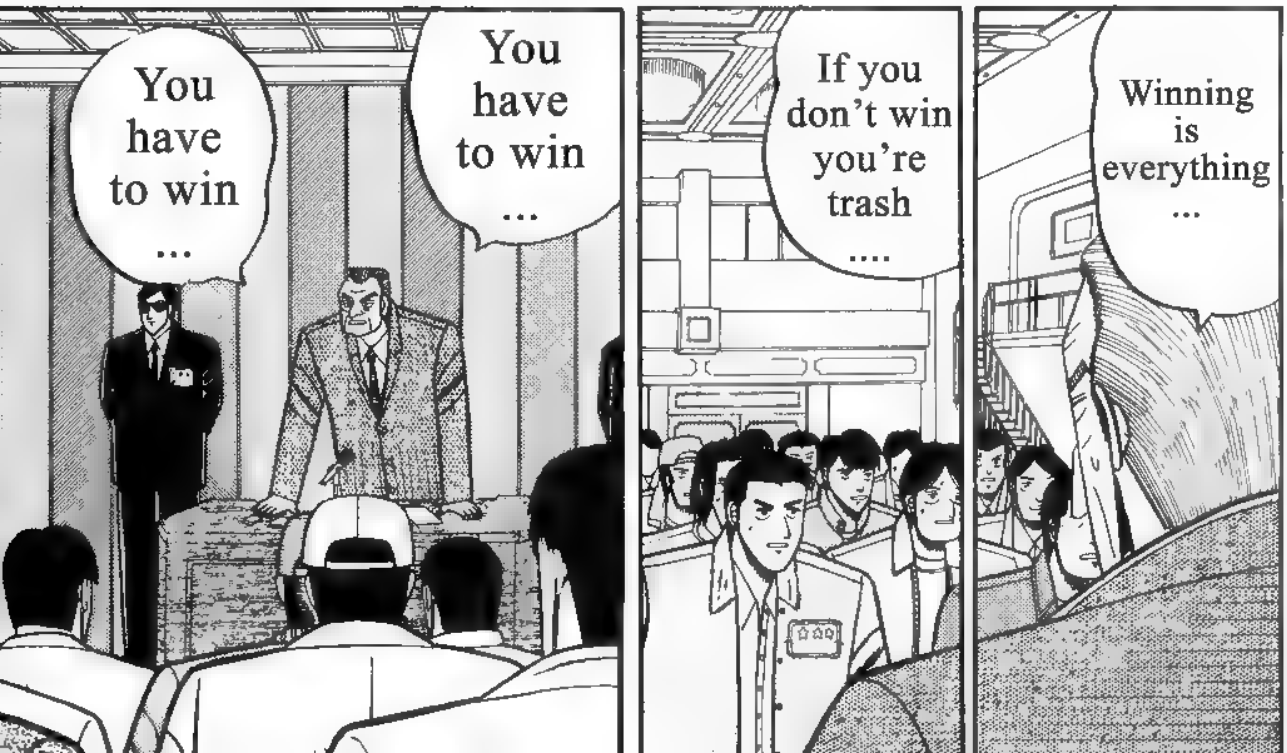
Why is that ...?


... in the dirt ...!
...you crawl and writhe ...


It is because you lose, time and again.
There is only one reason ...


It's time you woke up and smelled the coffee.
You should be adults.
You're in your 20s already...
That is the sole and only reason.


So etch this into your minds ...!


You have to win ...
You have to win ...
If you don't win you're trash ....
Winning is everything ...

You have to win ...!
Ah ...
End of Chapter 6

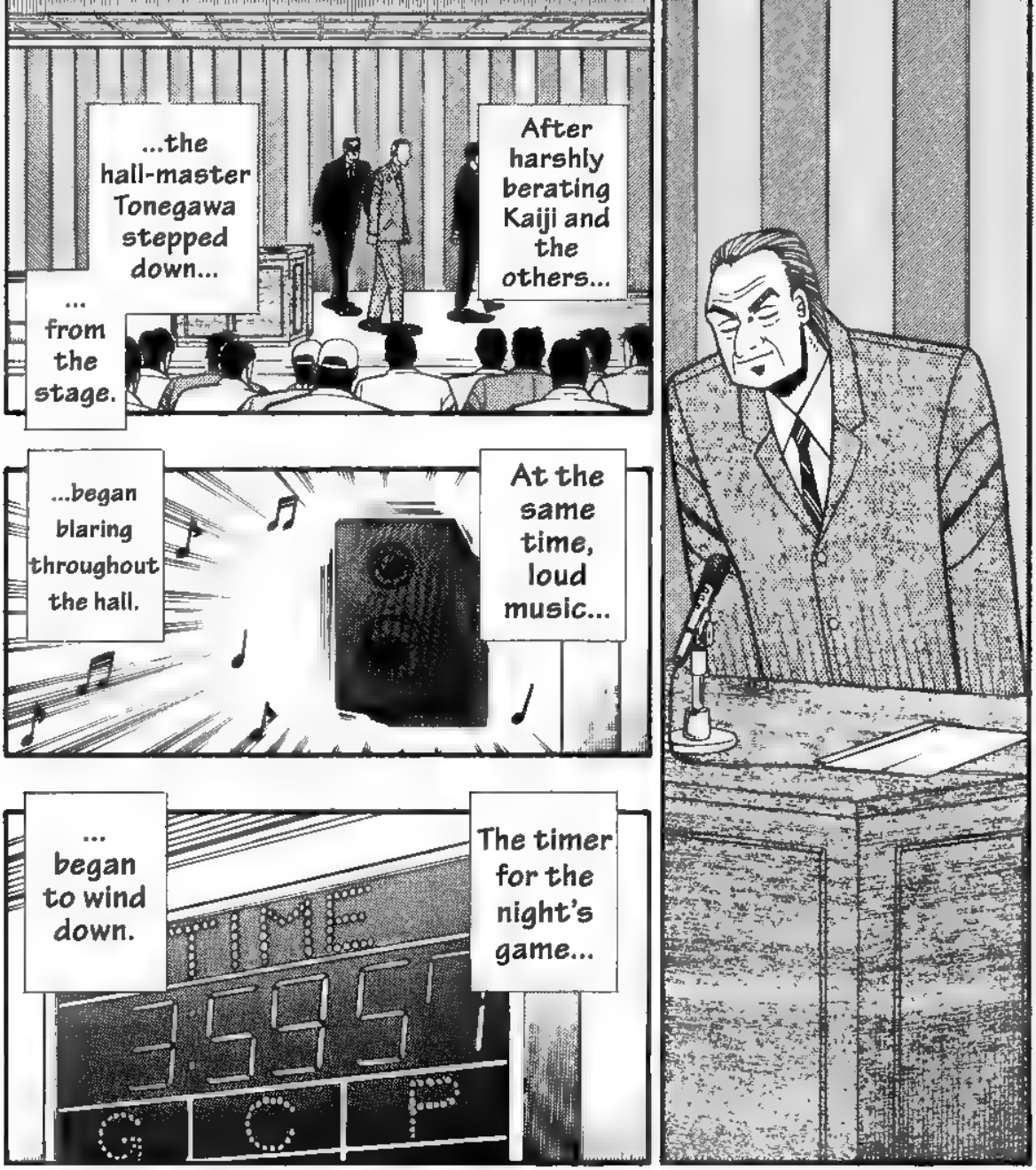
So you crawl and

writhe across the earth...

# Chapter 7: The Games Begin




. . . Mired in dirt . . . Like cockroaches . . .


...the hall-master Tonegawa stepped down...
...from the stage.
After harshly berating Kaiji and the others...
...began blaring throughout the hall.
At the same time, loud music...
...began to wind down.
The timer for the night's game...

The battle had begun ...
Ahh ...
ざわ‥
ざわ‥
Ah ...

What kind of an explanation was that!?
We should have argued more...
The games are already starting!
No way ...!
No way ...!
In the end, Tonegawa had avoided answering questions about the money...
...or what would happen if they lost.
No way ...!
But on second thought ...
... Kaiji considered fighting back.
For just a moment ...
... he could see over twenty blacksuits were on the floor...
We could initiate a mutiny and take over the boat by force...
Just look at how many of us there are...
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・
...some people were weeping and some were psyching themselves up.
Around Kaiji ...
The players wouldn't even stand a chance.
... they were packing guns beneath those suits.
In an emergency they would probably all rush in...
... plus quite a few upstairs, as well.
... and chances were...
AHHH
OHH
OHH
Unbelievably ...
...nobody seemed very eager to rebel.
Besides ...

Oh ...
Ah ...
...Tonegawa's speech had moved them to tears. It had inspired them...!

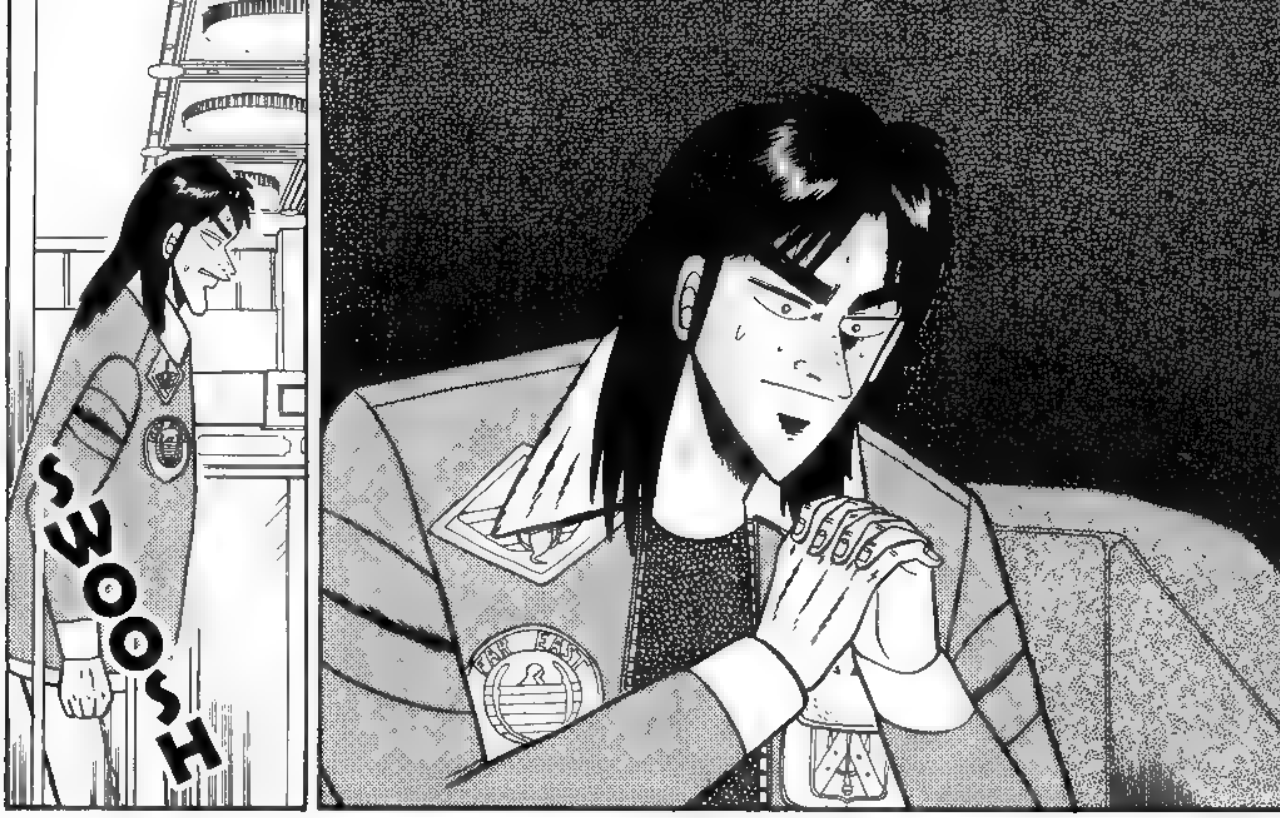
How can they be so stupid...?
I mean ...
It's incredible ...
They're just asking to be deceived.
...is exactly what Tonegawa was talking about.
Letting yourself get carried away like this...

Man ...
.....
I can do it...! I can do it...!
I'm gonna win...

Nearly 10% or 20% were reacting this way.
Oohhh ...!
Aahhh ...!

I can't rebel on my own.
.....
What am I gonna do ...?
Man ...
Those guys are suckers, down to the core...
It's because of crap like this that they're here in the first place.

...was pretty moving, but...
Sure, some of what he said...
What's wrong with them?


SHOOT

Sure, I'll be in huge debt, and have to work it off in a prison...
But they wouldn't do anything too crazy.
Hey... Maybe losing ain't so bad?

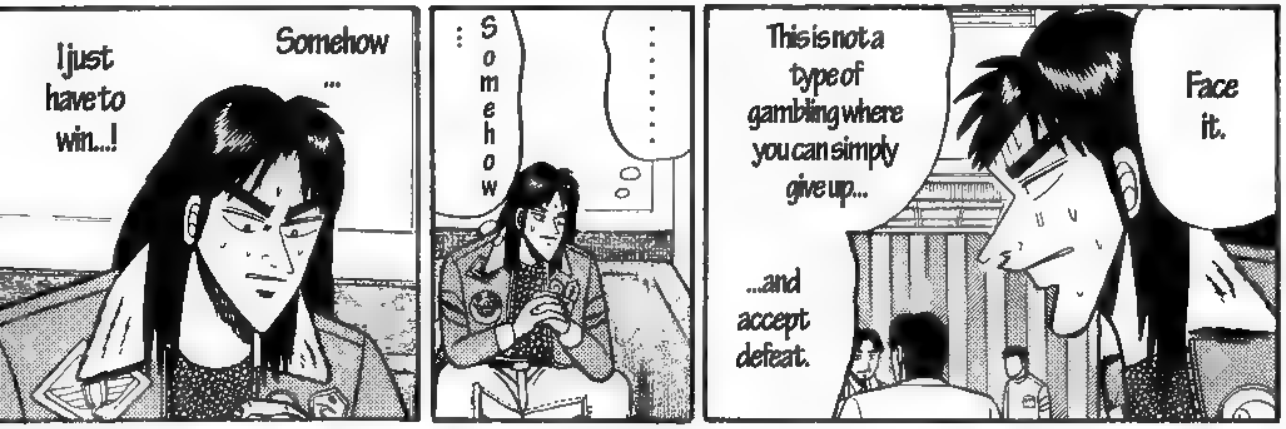
I guess I've gotta do it...!

.....
Right on the mark ...

They just want to scare us from the start.
That way there will be less complaints later.
Yeah, why not ...

...that guy from before was probably right on the mark...
After all ...

What am I doing?
I gotta think...!
...that something pretty terrible is waiting for us.
That would still mean ...
I can't let myself relax like this...!
Wake up, stupid...!
Ah ...!
SMACK




*Janken is the Japanese version of Rock, Paper, Scissors.

...with a 50/50 chance of coming out on top.
At first glance... It looks like a game of chance...
... Limited Janken.*
We've each got twelve cards...

WHOA
But ...
There must be some way...
Something...
Some way to raise the odds ...
Huh ...?
GASP
It was then...
ざわ・ざわ・・・
...that the first loser emerged.
The game had only been running for ten minutes ...
TIME
3:52:43
...but he had already lost his three stars.
.....
Once the man had lost...
...they escorted him out to a separate room...
...at the end of the hall.
SLAM

...began dropping one after the next.
...and lost quickly...
...who got ahead of themselves ...
The unlucky ones...
If you lost three times without winning, defeat would only take minutes.
A single match takes only ten seconds.

What's wrong with them...?

Ahh ...

... after defeat ...
: Defeat

...while they let those suits escort them out...?
What are they smiling like idiots for...

What's wrong with them...?

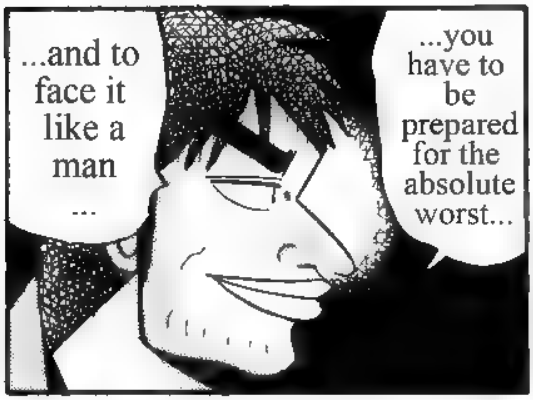
...or something...
They're acting like that they've just lost a party-game ...

They just lost the most important game of their lives...

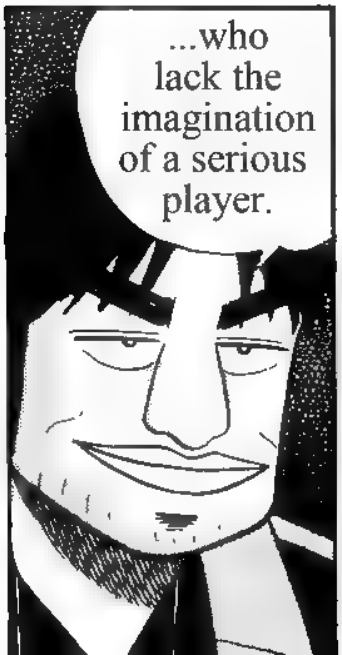
Huh ...?
Kind of a letdown, huh...?

What are they thinking ...?
Hehehehe

...?
I can tell what you're thinking.


...and to face it like a man ...
...you have to be prepared for the absolute worst...

So, In order to play this game...
Our fates totally depending on them if we lose...


...who lack the imagination of a serious player.

...there are bound to be a few ...
But with so many players ...

...and you should be prepared to face... ... even death.
Once you've lost you could become a cripple...

...that the reality, even here on this boat...
...is only a dream.
They've probably half convinced themselves ...
... covering their eyes so as to shut out anything bad.
They've probably spent their whole lives...
They're like dependent children ...
...that happens on them ...
They're turning a blind eye to the most important thing:
... after they lose.
That explains why they make such graceful losers.
...is completely beyond morons like them.
What I'm trying to say...
The importance of today's game...
They'll be in for a real shock when they finally wake up.
: H e h e h e
...the more carefully they plan.
The more serious the battle...
You gotta use your brains to win.
In life-or-death situations, only animals, cats and dogs, let chance decide.
For people ...
...is that today's game is not one you can afford to simply lose.
You can't take it all as a game of chance.

Hey... How do you know my name ...?
: Hehehe
Isn't that right... Kaiji-san ...?

I thought, finally, someone who's got it right.
It made a big impression .
...you were right in line after me. You took the max.
Back when they were lending us the money ...

I knew you'd remember ...!
Alright!
.....
.....
... happen to remember my name ...?
You don't by any chance...
Yes!
... Funai ...

Don't act so buddy-buddy...
Hehehe
Let go of me...!
HMPH
This is great... This is perfect...!
We're two of a kind, you and me.
Huh ...?
You and me.
Let's work together ...
... Kaiji-san.
Come on now...
...are 100%!
... then your chances of winning ...
If you can find a good partner ...
In order to make it out of here you need a partner.
Exactly.
Together ...?

Get real ...!

Of course.

You mean a surefire bet...!?

Yep ...

100% ...?

FORCE

.....

Come on now ...

Think. How do you win this game?

There are no sure bets...

Kaiji - san.

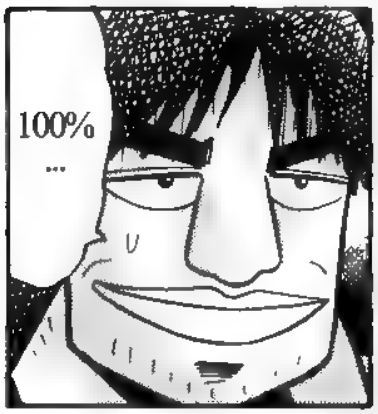
And ...?

You use all your cards...

You don't need to get 4 stars. You just need the 3 we have now.
Which means ...
You only need 3.
Exactly ...!
Keep 3 stars.

...and fix the game.
...use up all 12 cards ...
You can team up with somebody else, anyone will do...
Basically ...

Three stars, and your cards are gone ...!
That fills all the requirements.
All you need to do is play 12 draws in a row...
AIR FORCE



WAAHHHHH.....!

End of Chapter 7

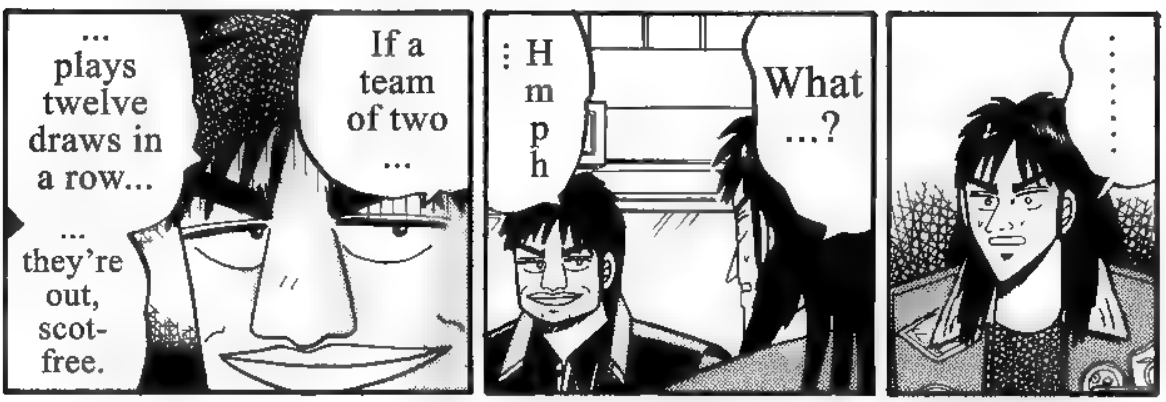
# Chapter 8: Dirty Tricks

...they only just explained the rules.
But ...
I mean, look around ...
When you say it like that ...
I mean ...
...it seems so obvious.
How did you figure that out?
Man oh man...
FAR EAS

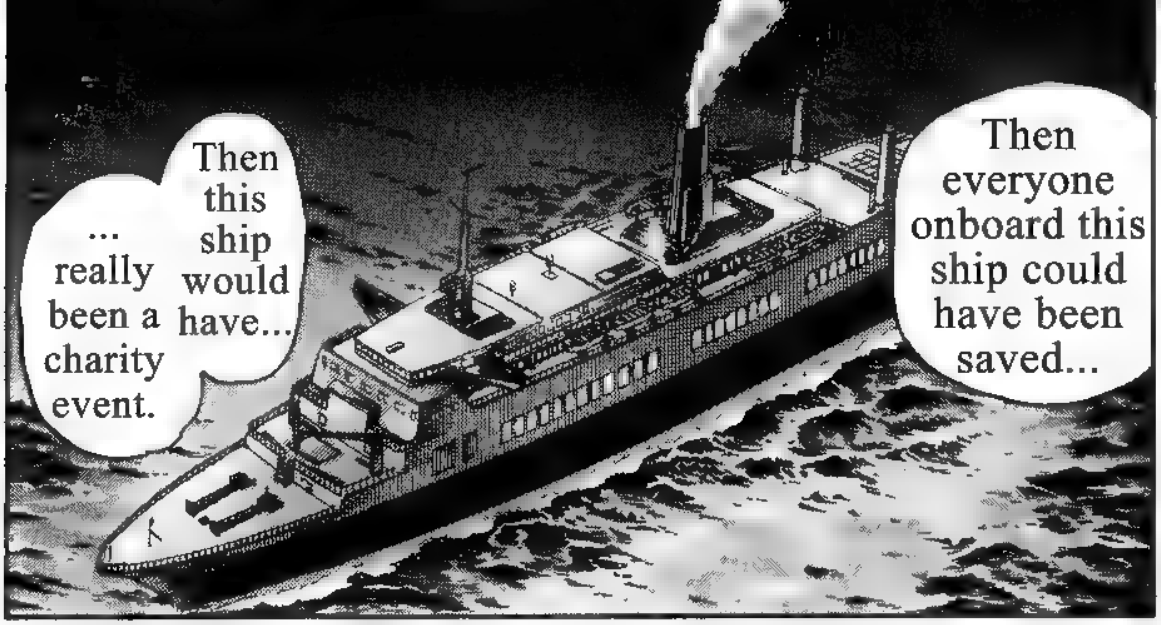
Play twelve draws in a row in order to survive...

That's not fair ...!
It's not ...!
: Hehehe
Yeah.
I see what you mean ...

But getting angry won't do you any good now.
Time is money.
Just cool it for now and listen to what I say...
Alright, Kaiji-san?


.....
What ...?
: Hmph
If a team of two ...
... plays twelve draws in a row...
... they're out, scot-free.

Meaning if at the start of the game ...
... someone here had stepped up to the bat...
... and suggested we all throw the match ...
If someone ... had just stepped up to lead...

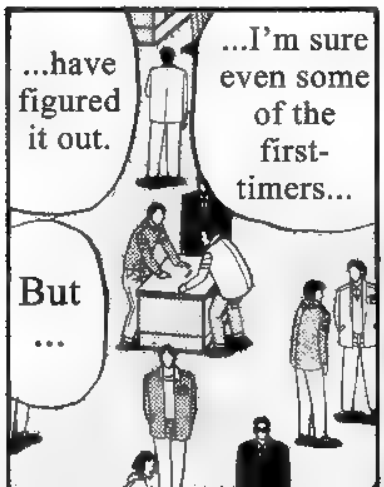

Then everyone onboard this ship could have been saved...
Then this ship would have...
... really been a charity event.

Kaiji-san...
Nobody stepped up to the bat.

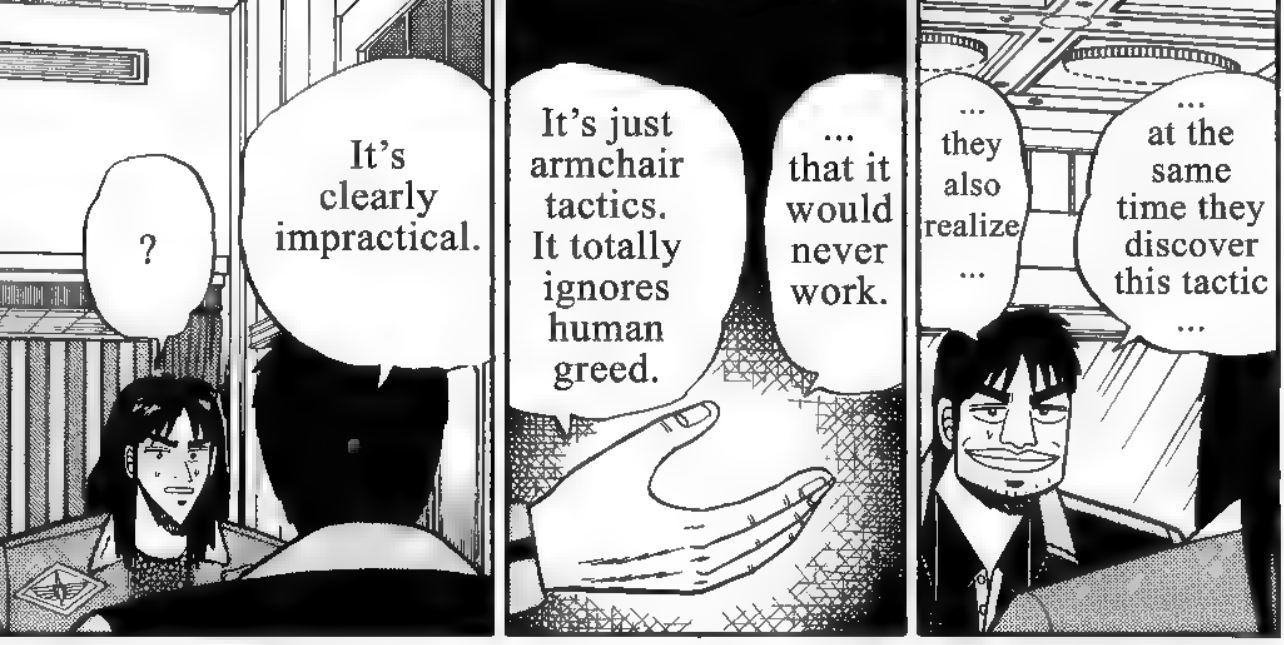
And this one, too ...
But on the last 2 cruises ...

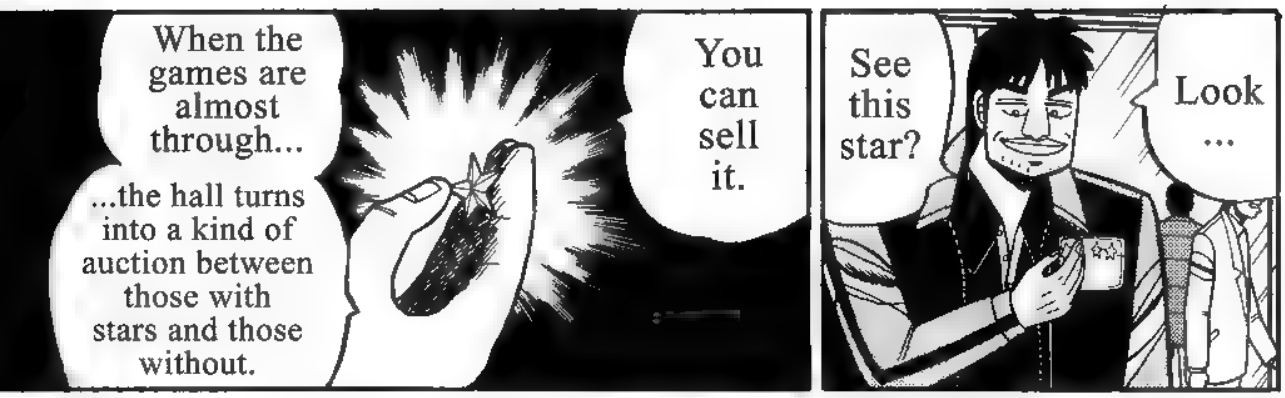
Quit playing around!
Come on ...!
Because ... nobody noticed ...?

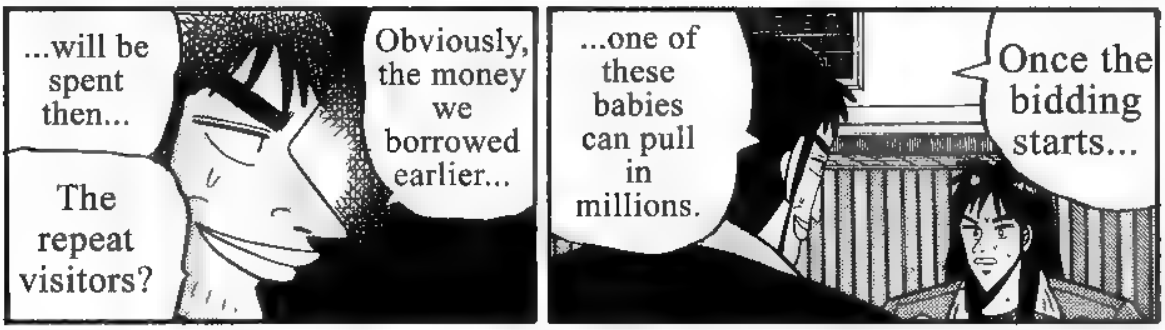
Why do you think that is ...?

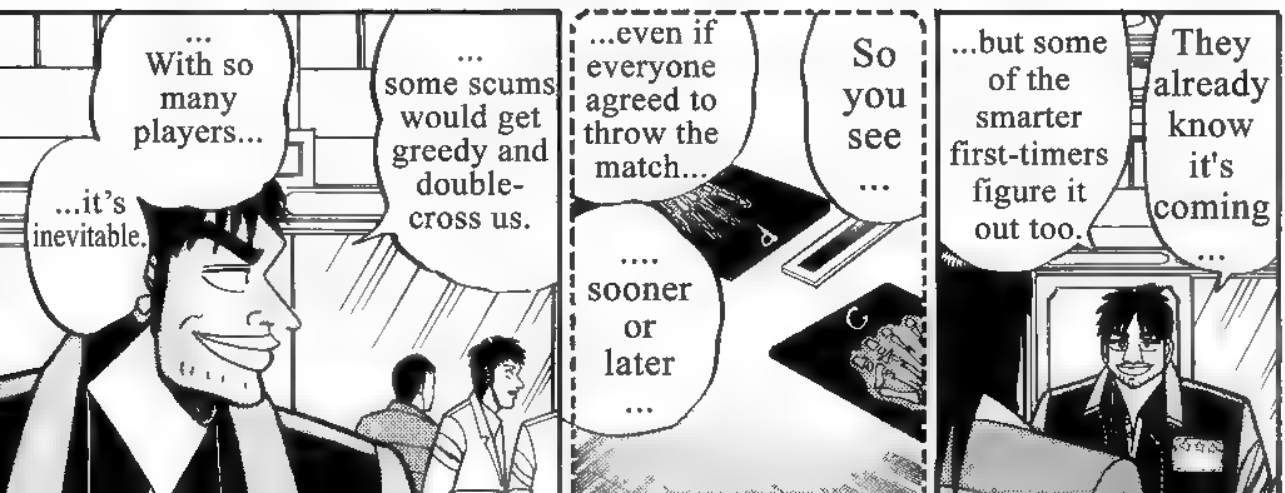

...have figured it out.
...I'm sure even some of the first-timers...
But ...

Plus, with this many people ...
Some of us have been on this cruise before.

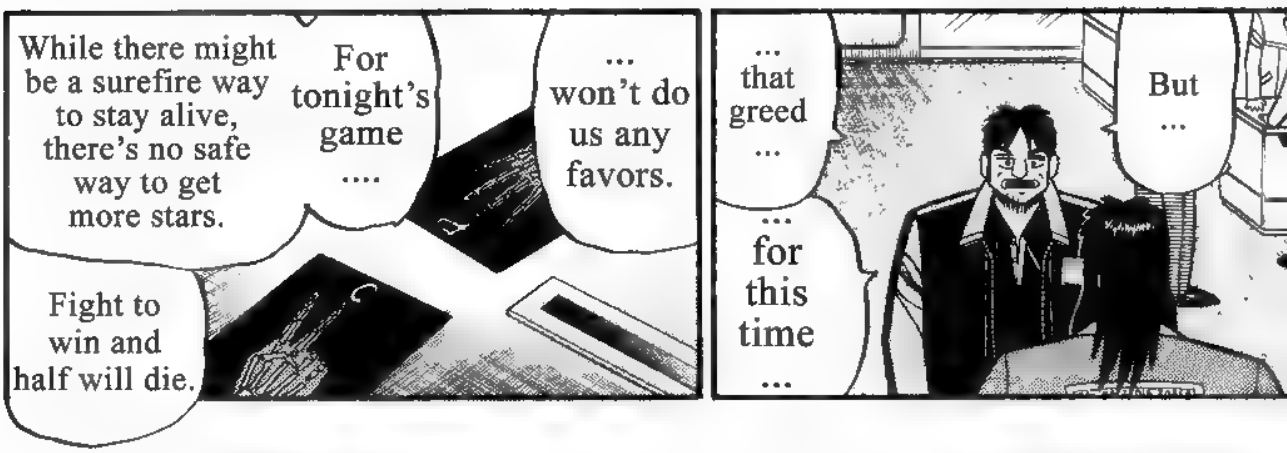

?
It's clearly impractical.
It's just armchair tactics. It totally ignores human greed.
... that it would never work.
... they also realize ...
... at the same time they discover this tactic ...


When the games are almost through...
...the hall turns into a kind of auction between those with stars and those without.
You can sell it.
See this star?
Look ...


...will be spent then...
The repeat visitors?
Obviously, the money we borrowed earlier...
...one of these babies can pull in millions.
Once the bidding starts...


... With so many players...
...it's inevitable.
... some scums would get greedy and double-cross us.
...even if everyone agreed to throw the match...
.... sooner or later ...
So you see ...
...but some of the smarter first-timers figure it out too.
They already know it's coming ...

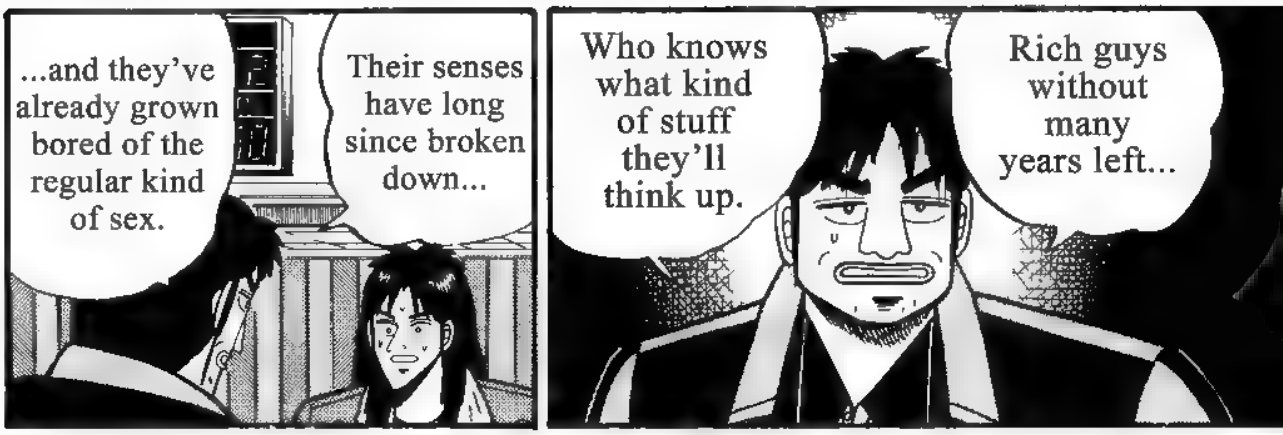
...to grab wealth.
Some of them are just out for their own skin,and would jump at the chance...
Not everyone onboard this ship...
... is an innocent jellyfish.
It's not realistic.
That's what makes it an armchair strategy.
...there's nobody who would do it.
Even if you notice this "draw trick"....


While there might be a surefire way to stay alive, there's no safe way to get more stars.
For tonight's game ....
... won't do us any favors.
Fight to win and half will die.
... that greed ...
... for this time ...
But ...

... is how to get off of this boat.
The only thing you should be thinking about now...
... trying to win.
The loss is just too great to risk...
Man, I'd hate to be you...
And if you yourself don't manage to win...

...when the stars are auctioned off later...
You'll have a chance to have a look at the losers...
That will shock you.
... it really is bad..
... about what happens when we lose...
... was covering up ...
That scum bag Tonegawa ...
...you can guess the rest.
After you see that ...
...they don't even look at you...
...as a human being anymore ...
Once you've lost ...
?.....
...that leave you as a vegetable after about a year or two.
...they use you to experiment with new medicines ...
Rumor goes ...
...and force you to sell your body...
They lock you in chains ...
Or ...

For people with money but not much time...
Huh ...?
Maybe men will do better won't they?
But most of those who are gathering up here are...
Yeah ...
Prostitutes ...?


...and they've already grown bored of the regular kind of sex.
Their senses have long since broken down...
Who knows what kind of stuff they'll think up.
Rich guys without many years left...

They're only interested in healthy, strapping young men...
Face it ...
... or sell your body ...
Whether they use you as an experiment ...
... they only let young people onboard ...
I mean, you've gotta wonder why...
Don't you think?

Right ?
But it's best to be prepared...

Well, I don't know for sure ...
Are you serious ...?

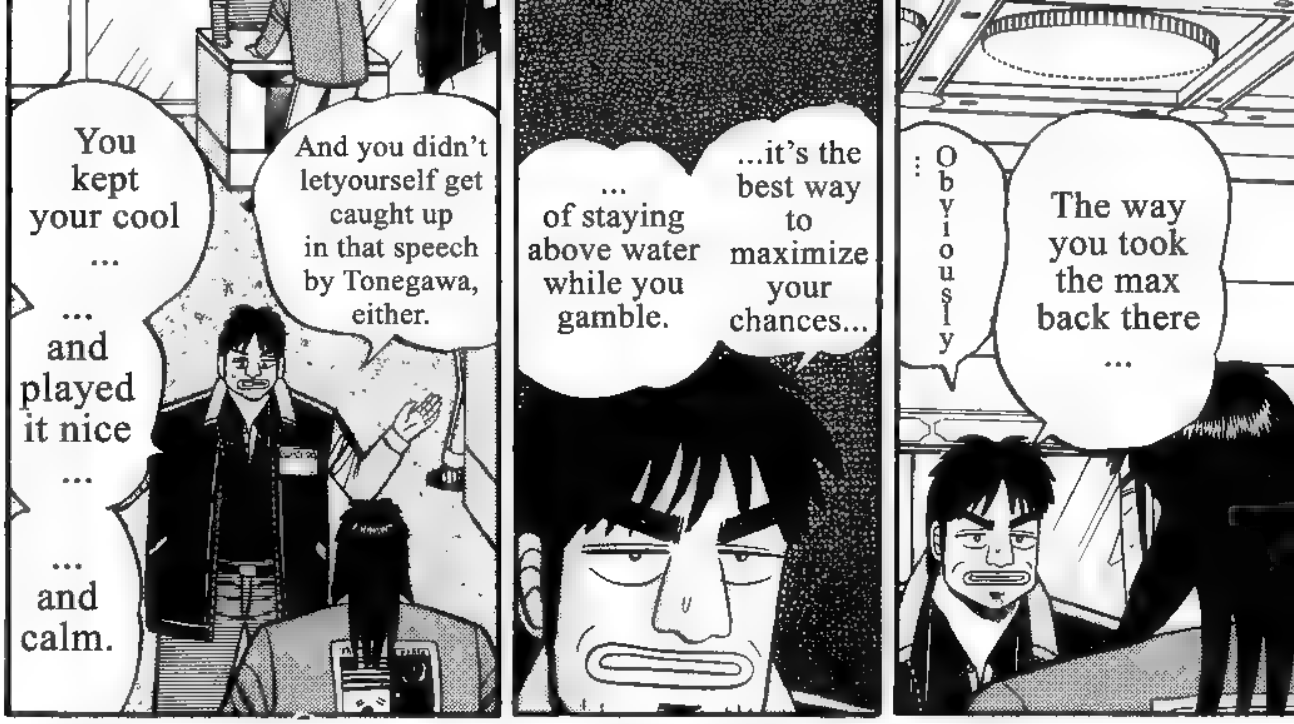
GAH...

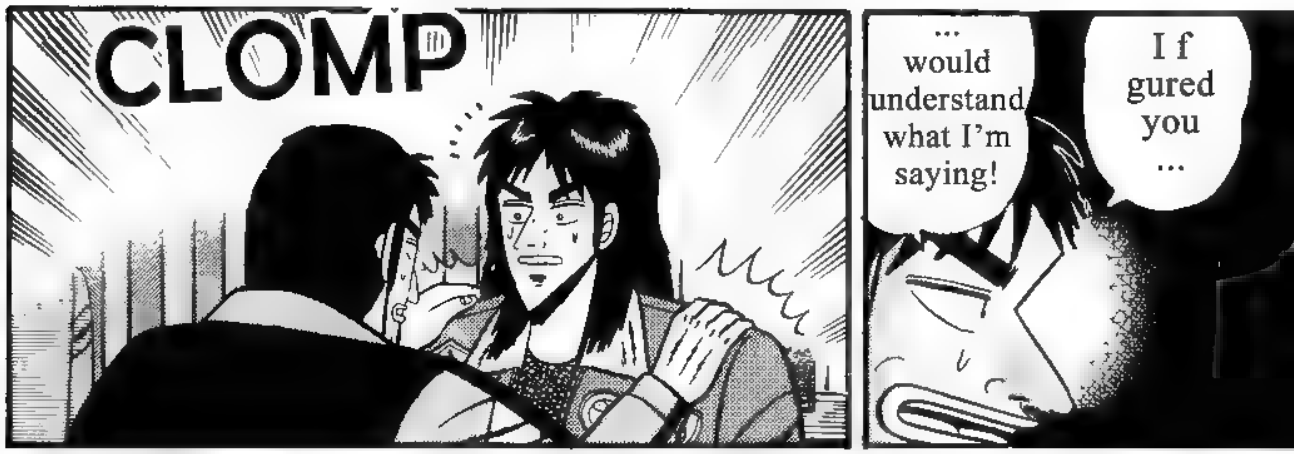
...I've been keeping my eyes peeled...
Ever since I got on this boat ...

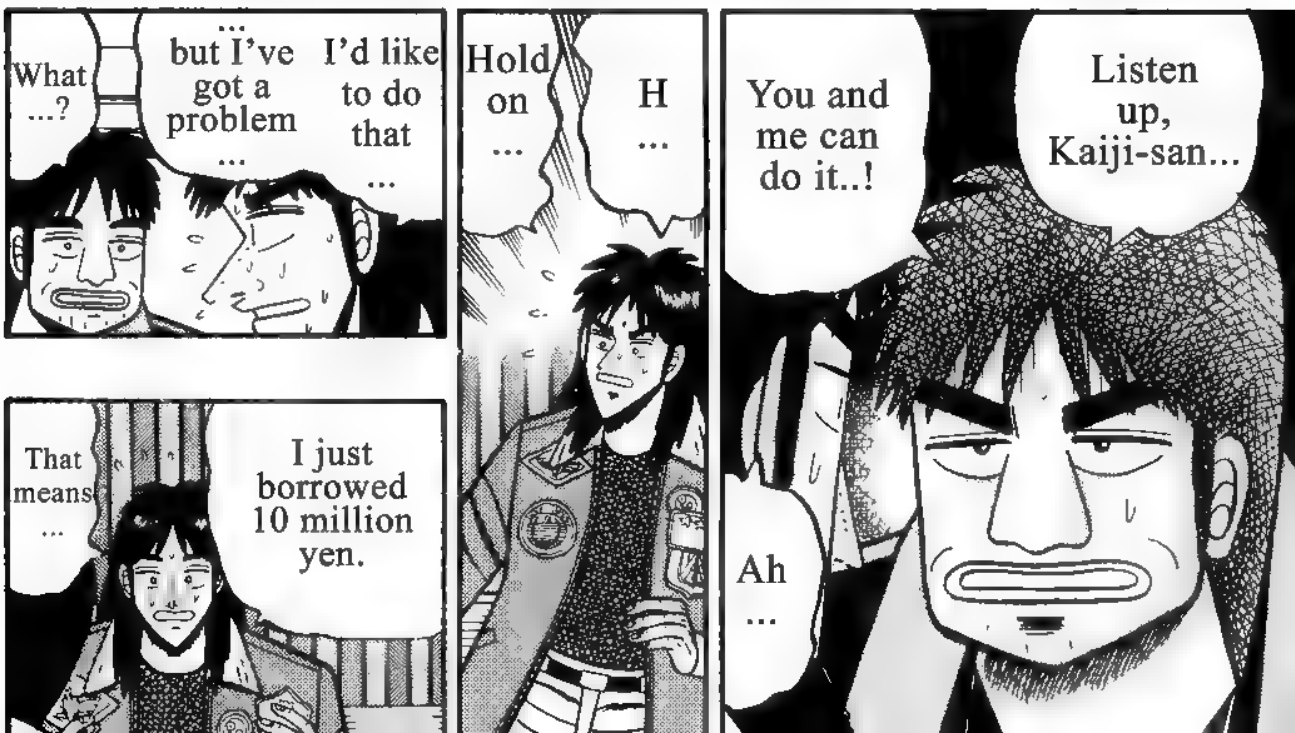
I think you're someone I can trust.
...for a good partner.

At least our debts will be erased.
Let's throw the match and just get out of here...!
Isn't that enough ...!?

... you can never lose.
To be safe ...
We can't get greedy.


You kept your cool ...
... and played it nice ...
... and calm.
And you didn't letyourself get caught up in that speech by Tonegawa, either.
... of staying above water while you gamble.
...it's the best way to maximize your chances...
: Obviously
The way you took the max back there ...

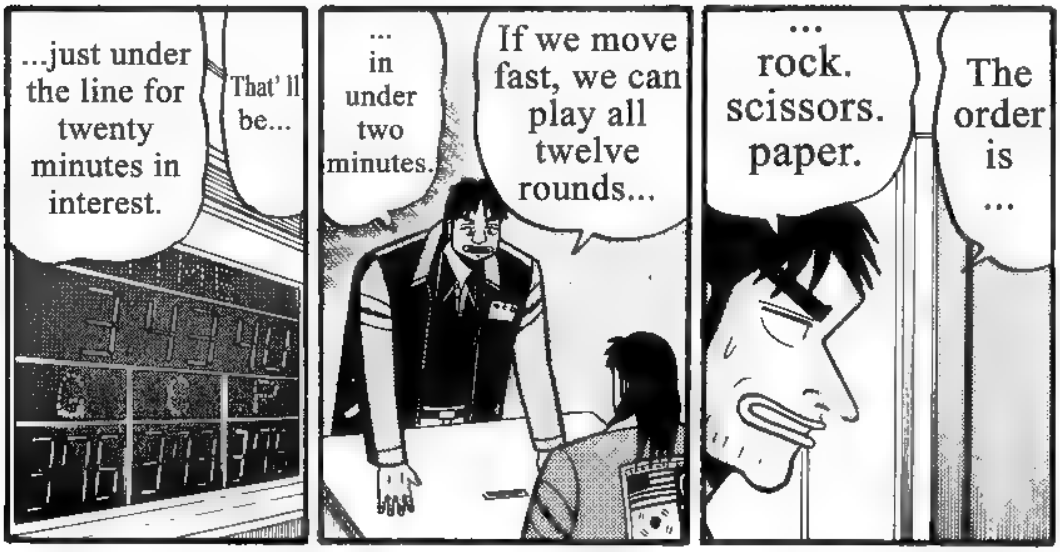

CLOMP
... would understand what I'm saying!
I f gured you ...

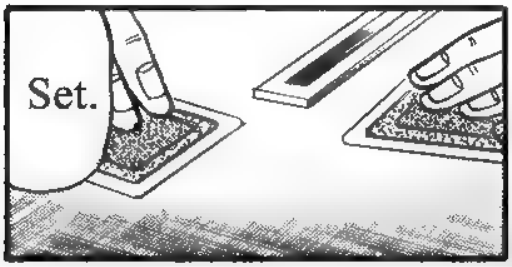

What ...?
... but I've got a problem ...
I'd like to do that ...
That means ...
I just borrowed 10 million yen.
Hold on ...
H ...
You and me can do it..!
Ah ...
Listen up, Kaiji-san...

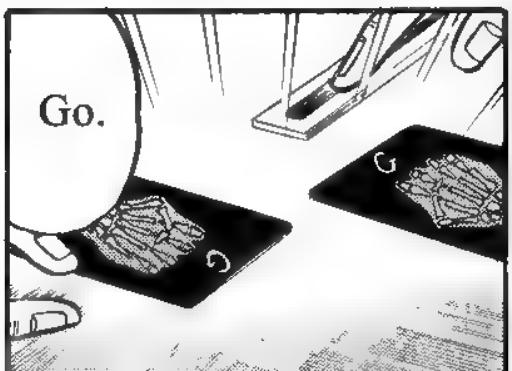
Think about it, man.
Kaiji -san...
Argghh ....
I'll be in the hole ....
The debt I'm paying off was only 3.85 million yen....
What should I do?
Once this game is over I'll be stuck with 4 million in interest.
If you finish the game early...
...then he interest is practically nothing.
The interest only gets added on every 10 minutes.
Huh ...?
That interest is compounded every 10 minutes.
I told you when we started ...
That's right.
・・・？ ¥3000000
It should be just about ¥300,000.
If we start now we can finish before 20 minutes is up.
That's only about ...
... double 1.5% of 10 million yen.
There's not a minute to waste.
Time is money ...!
Got it ...?

# The Match...

Don't mess up now.
Ready ...?


...just under the line for twenty minutes in interest.
That' ll be...
... in under two minutes.
If we move fast, we can play all twelve rounds...
... rock. scissors. paper.
The order is ...


Set.


Go.

Check.

Let's go.

I'm saved ...!
FLAP
A tie ...
SMIRK
FAREA

Lucky me ...!
... me and a guy like Funai-san together.
That must be what brought ...
...at the worst I've ever been ...
Even in this hellhole ...
...I've still got an angel on my shoulder.

9 draws in a row.
All I wanna do is get out of here safely...
There's no getting over a loss in this game.
... all or nothing on this crazy boat...?
Who would risk going...
... had played their cards as agreed.
So far, both Kaiji and Funai ...
It's better to take the draw.
... to get rich quick...
... even if it does sound tempting ...

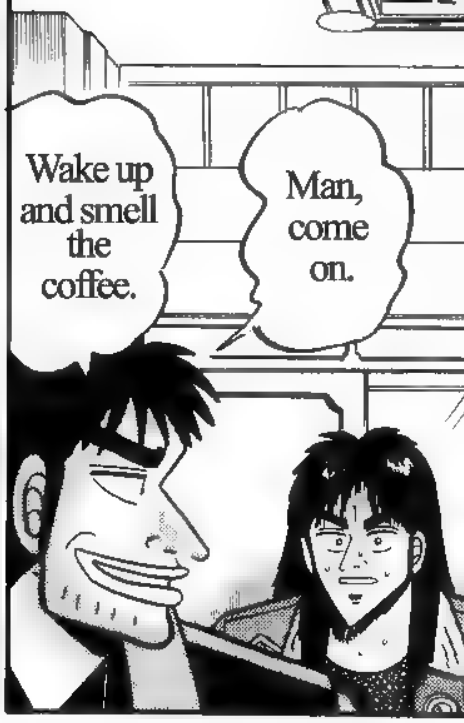
But the 10th match was different.
Set.
Go.
SCRAICH
I'm so sorry ...!
Kaij-san ...
I messed up!
What did I do!?
How could I mess up like that!?
Shoot ...!
Huh ...?

Next time ...
FWAP
I'll play this card...
We'll fix it on the next one.
No choice ...
I'm sorry ...! I'm sorry ...!
I'm sorry.
WOB
Ah ...
Funai ...
Yeah ...
Ah ... :
Kaiji-san ...
Take the trick and win.
G
This is my next card.
...and then because the blacksuits were watching, he said...
...flashed Kaiji the rock card he was going to play next ...
... he reached out and took one of Kaiji's stars.
Why didn't I at least . . . figure it out at this moment . . .
CHECK
SET
GO ...!

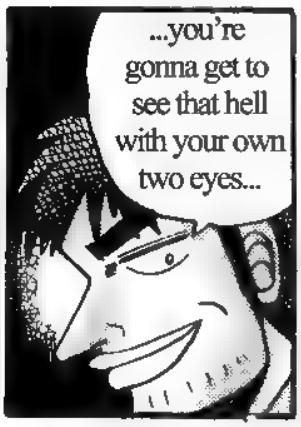
Wh
...
Why
...?
RIP
Urk
...

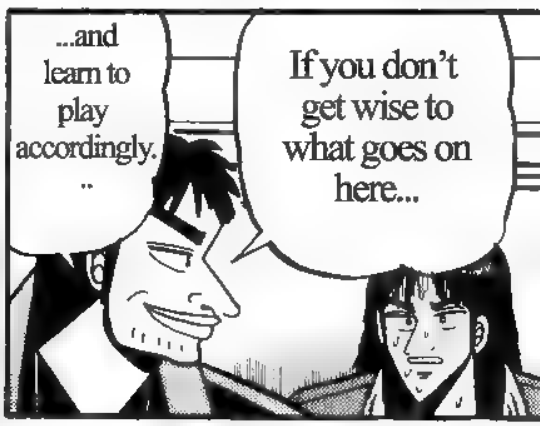
I've been practicing that one...
...ever since I signed up for this cruise.
: Hehehe
...was the other, hidden card.
But the one I set down...
... and only let you see one.
I lined up two cards perfectly ...
... Wait a sec ...
W ...
And thanks for the stars.
See you later, kid...
Alright then ...
SCHTICK
A beautiful trick, wasn't it?
: Hehe
Huh ...?
What are you ...doing ...?

What more of an explanation do you need?
One of these stars can be auctioned off for millions of yen...
These stars can be sold.
I told you earlier ...


Wake up and smell the coffee.
Man, come on.

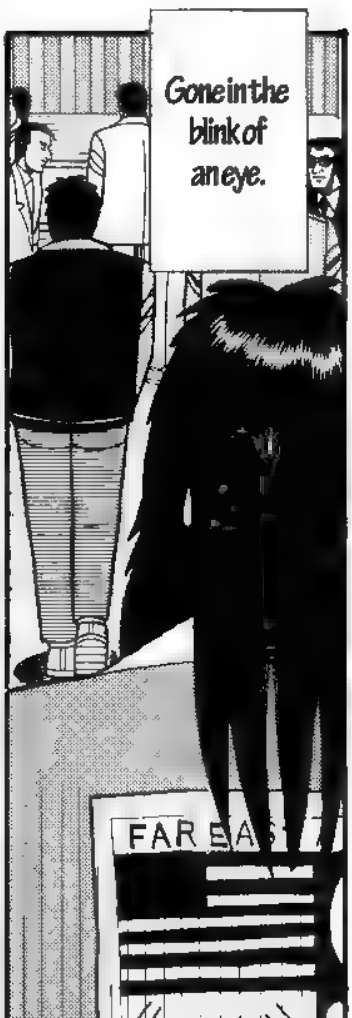
Then again, it might just already be too late.
: Hehehe


...you're gonna get to see that hell with your own two eyes...


...and learn to play accordingly. ..
If you don't get wise to what goes on here...

... Funai ...
End of Chapter 8

**Only twenty minutes into the game, and already crushed ...**



# Chapter 9: Desperation

...a dirty trick like that...!?
Did you think I'd let you pull...
Get back here...!
THUD THUD THUD
You jerk ...!
Y-You gotta be kidding me...!
Got off of me!
Give back my stars...!
GRAB
Huh ...?
SMACK
Punk!
Get back ...!
But... but...
You ...!
Don't be ridiculous.
You two ...!
Calm down!
Ahh ...

H-He ...
Just tell me what happened ...
Now, what's going on...?
Act cool.
In spite of himself ...
SNIFF
We ...
I don't owe you nothin' ...!
Get over yourself!
Stabbed you in the back?
We had a promise to play twelve draws but he stabbed me in the back...
...Kaiji began crying.
You got played...
I'm just doing what I gotta do.
Now deal with it!
Did you think we were friends!?
We only talked for like five minutes, max.
Time to grow up...!

Knock it off.
What did you say!?
Wha ...
Quiet, Sissy.
Violence will not be tolerated ...
You two, separate ...!
Tsk ....!
I said get lost!
...and we'll haul your butts out of here.
Now get lost ...!
You pull any more fights...
It's like he said...
You... You're letting him go?
Huh ...?

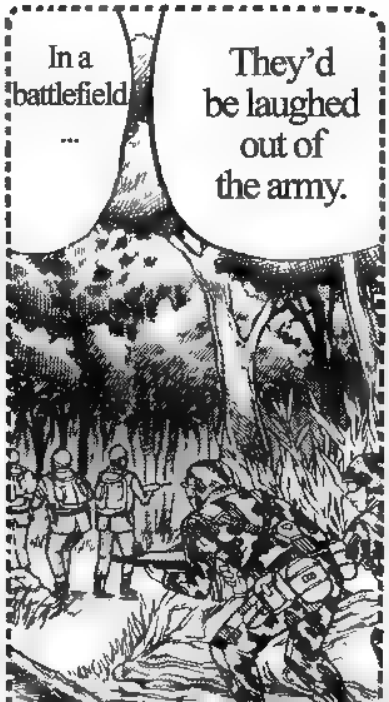
There ain't no problem here.
Huh ...?

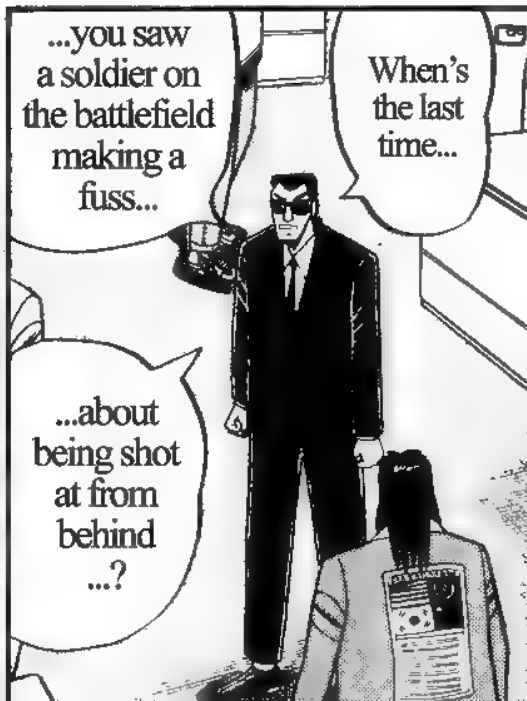
While you are in this hall ...
Whaddya mean, no problem ...?

This hall ...
... is a battlefield ...

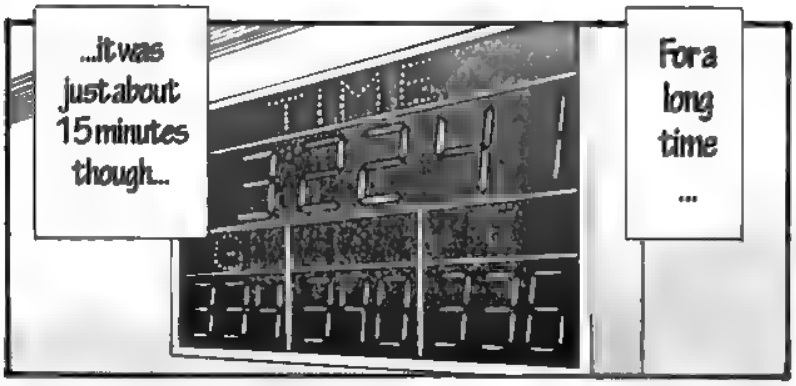
You need to use everything that you've got...
...to fight for your life.

... are a way of life...
... ambushes and sneak attacks...


In a battlefield ...
They'd be laughed out of the army.


When's the last time...
...you saw a soldier on the battlefield making a fuss...
...about being shot at from behind ...?

This is a battlefield ...
...you're going to have to use tactics.
In order to be real player...
...to get the drop on their opponents ...
In order ...
...a soldier sneaks up from behind.
It ain't my problem...!
...and you just got shot in the back.
Now get lost...!


...it was just about 15 minutes though...

For a long time ...
.....
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

...and his thoughts, blank.
His brain was overloaded ...

...and wept.
...Kaiji sat in his chair...

He was at the end of his rope.

...was one card and one star.

All he had left...

He didn't know where to turn.

It all seemed pointless, now...

No hope remained.

Huh...?

I'll never get three stars now...

It's too late...

In the game of "Limited Janken"...

...there was one other vital ingredient...

...when Kaiji finally realized something that would have occurred to him sooner if he had been calm.

.....

And the pain and confusion had begun to numb a little...

About twenty minutes had passed...

Wait...

Money...!
...money in the first place...
This is the whole reason that we've got...
The money...
Of course...
...I'll have three!
And then, if I win with my last card...
I can buy a second star now.
Besides, I don't need to wait until the end.
At the end there will be a star auction.
Remember what Funai said...

Even if I wipe out my 3.85 million debt this way...
...the money I spend on the star and the interest compounded every 10 minutes...
.....
Still ...
This is gonna be close...
A way out ...!
And in the first place...
I'll be safe, but I'll be even further in debt...
...to 5 or 6 million.
At the very least, that will add up...
There's no way...
Man ...
I just know I'll blow it.
One in three is next to impossible ...
A one in three chance.
There's no guarantee I'll win...
My last card.

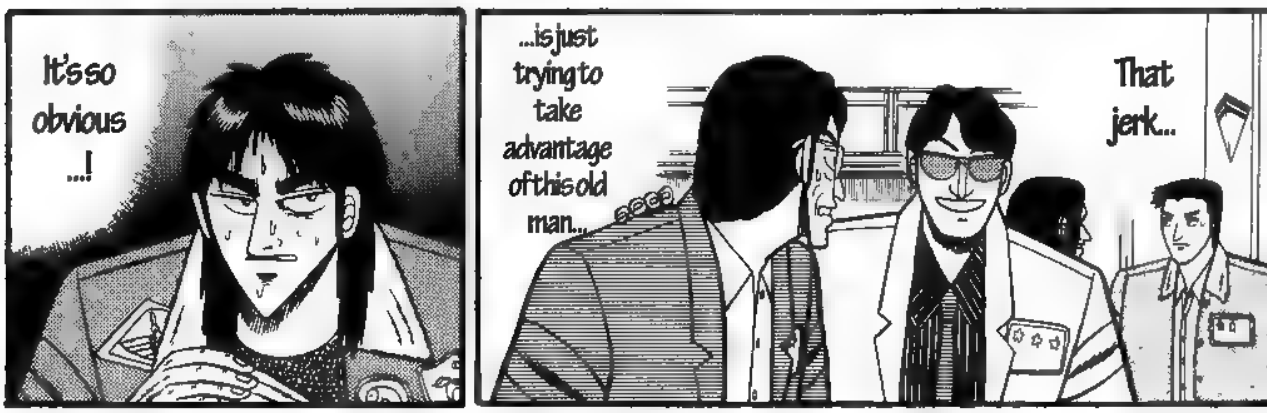
Hehehe
...for good.
...has finished me...
Losing those two stars ...
It's too late ...
SCRATCH
Man ...!
...it might already be too late.
Then again ...
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
Why in the world did I trust him?
So why didn't I think for myself...?
I knew that...
This is serious ...
...is the most important game of my life...
This game ...

Why did I...
Why didn't I make my own decisions.....?
... leave my fate up to someone else ...?
A regret that could hollow you out and leave you in pieces.
Regret didn't even begin to describe the feeling...
Regret ...
SOB SOB SOB

Sure, I've never been as low as this...
This isn't the first time I've been in hot water...
But if I think about it...
...to start thinking about college or jobs...
After high school, when it was time...
...but I've made plenty of bad choices in life...
...I let other people make my decisions...
Instead of deciding for myself...
...while I just go with the flow...
Whenever the tough decisions need made
...I just run away...
It's one of my worst traits...
I put all my faith into other people's decisions...

...leading up to this disappointment...!
My whole life has been a train wreck...
...I wouldn't be in this mess...
If I wasn't so weak...
Just leave it to me...
...for an idiot like me.
There's no hope left...
No one's going to save me, now...
There's still a surefire way to win...
Do what I say and you'll be fine...

...but I know there are no sure bets.
I don't know what he's pulling...
No way...!


It's so obvious...!
...is just trying to take advantage of this old man...
That jerk...

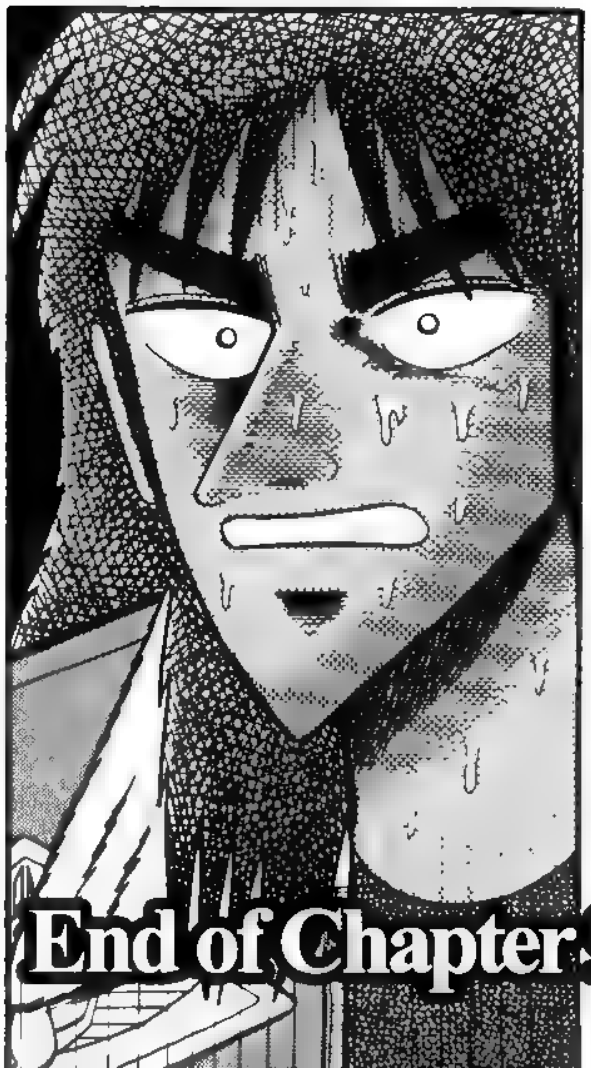
...I was in the same naive boat.
Just a moment ago...

...is already falling for it...
But the patsy he found...
Hook, line, and sinker...

...to the onlooker.
So obvious...

SWISH...
I can't help him...
.....

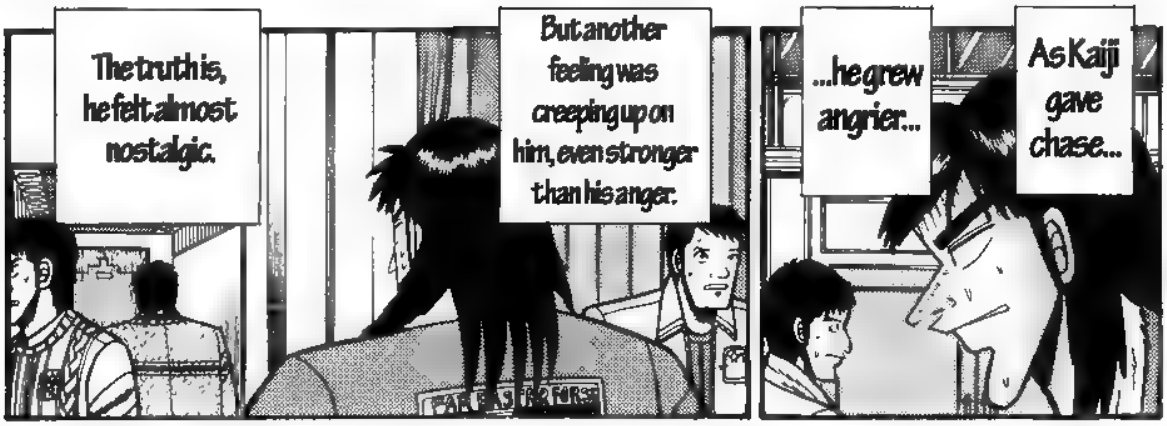
...for not bothering to think for himself.
But it's his own fault ...
It's tough ...
.....
GASP
The idiots are going to get eaten alive on this boat...
Don't I know him...?
That guy over there...
Wait a sec...
Huh ...?
.....
He's the one who persuaded me into co-signing that debt before he ran off ...
One year ago ...



End of Chapter 9

He's the reason I'm on this boat in the first place.
Takeshi Furuhata ...
But he's gonna pay for what he did...
...landed him here as well...
I don't know what kinda luck...
.....
You're not getting away...!
No way ...
SWOOSH

Hold it right there...!


The truth is, he felt almost nostalgic.
But another feeling was creeping up on him, even stronger than his anger.
...he grew angrier...
As Kaiji gave chase...

...and spurred him on even faster.
...was even greater than his rage...
...here, in the lonely pits of hell...
The joy he felt, at seeing someone he knew...

# Chapter 10: An Alliance

Usually it was a space to wash up...
...sit a spell...
...and take a breather.
However!
...under the current circumstances...
...this once-relaxing room had become...
Furuhata had disappeared...
...into a room leading towards the toilets...
SQUEAK
PAR
...where a basin and sofa were available...
...for passengers to take a breather.

Ohh ...
Ahh ...
... an asylum !
It is a grieving room ...!
OHHH
WAHH
Ah ...
They held their heads in their hands...
The men rotted where they sat, like pieces of driftwood washed up on shore...
Thick with the stench of loss...
...they cried in despair and cursed their lives...
Like a pack of mongrels ...
...and wept openly.

...he was still in a better position than Kaiji...
With four cards and one star...

Among those men was Furuhata.
FAREAST

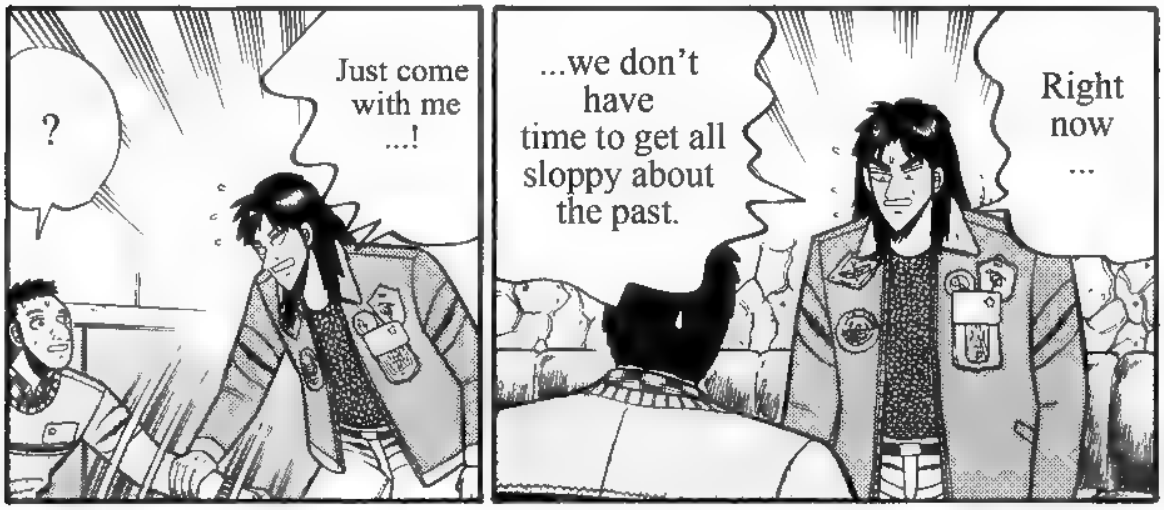
And ...

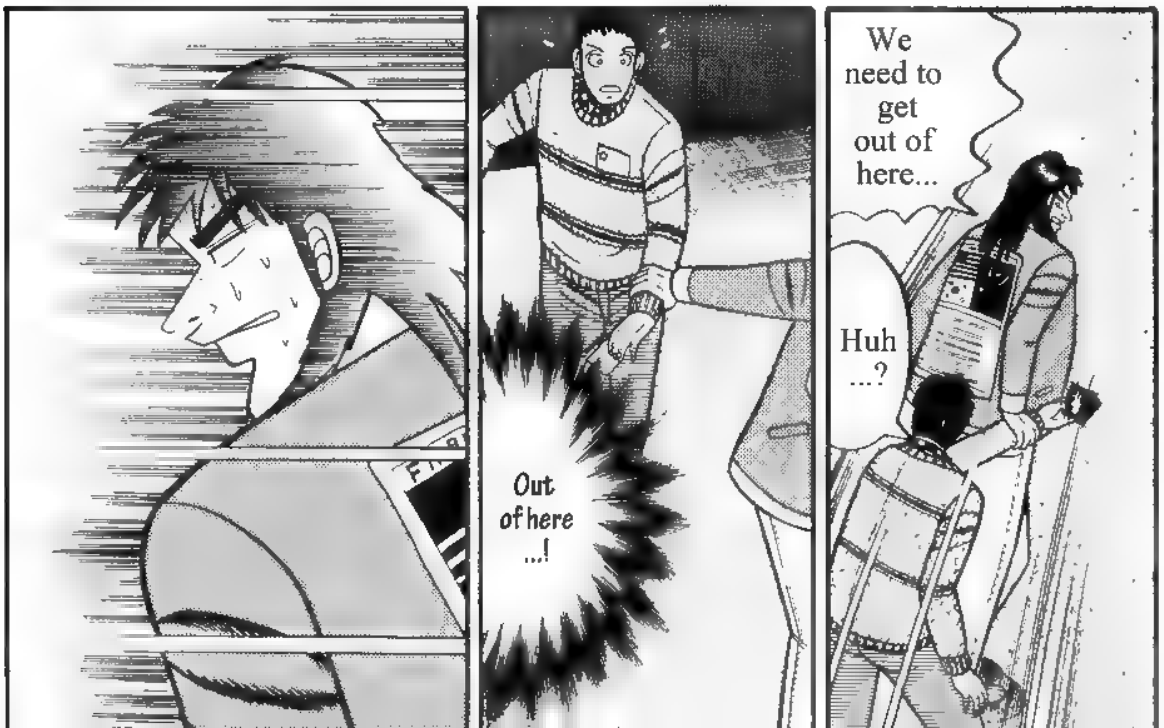
WAHHH
...he too stunk of despair and defeat.
But like the rest ...

Huh ...?
Furuhata, come with me...!

GRAB

Whatever...!
Back then...
I'm so sorry...!
Yeah...
K-Kaiji-san...?

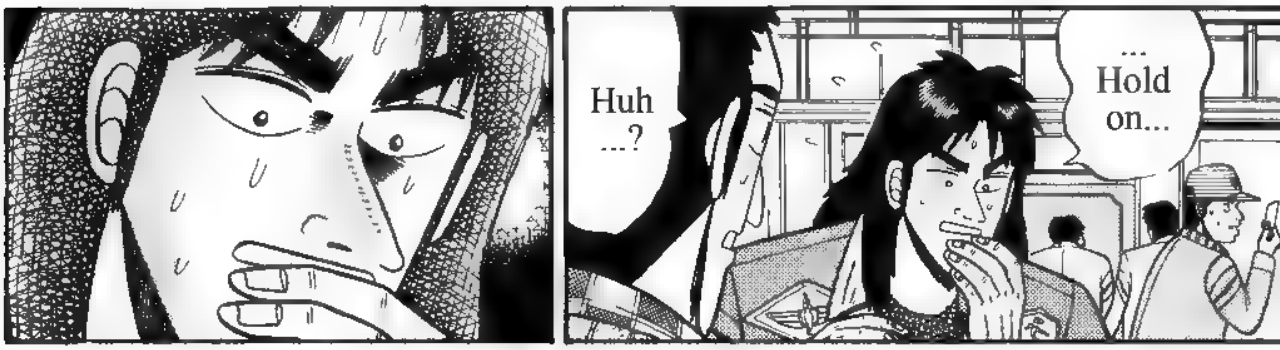

?
Just come with me...!
...we don't have time to get all sloppy about the past.
Right now...


Out of here...!
We need to get out of here...
Huh...?

Huh ...?
You'll just rot in there.
...
...I was just like you too...
I'm not one to talk. A few minutes ago ...
They're missing their chance.
But those guys in there...
...but they really are trash...
I hate to say it...
Not because they lost...
Not if they've already given up.
Of course they can't win now ...
We may not have much, but we're still in the game.
Their spirits are crushed by this situation.

One loss and we're finished...!
When this just cross my mind...
Furuhata ...
Kaiji-san...
It's hopeless ...!
We only have one star left.
Oh ...
...but because they won't even bother taking the chance...
But ...
But...
But ...
Let's work together... You and me.
Huh ...?
That's right.
The two of us ...?
...2 million yen...
How much money did you borrow ...?
Together we'll get 6 stars...
What ...?

We use your remaining cards and my money.
If we work together ...
We can buy our stars.
Two might be impossible but ten is something.
I borrowed 10 million.



There might be a better way...!

The three of them now formed...
Yet another hopeless player at his wit's end...
With two stars and zero cards ...
The man's name was Ando.

Search for a man with two stars and zero cards ...!

A new alliance ...!

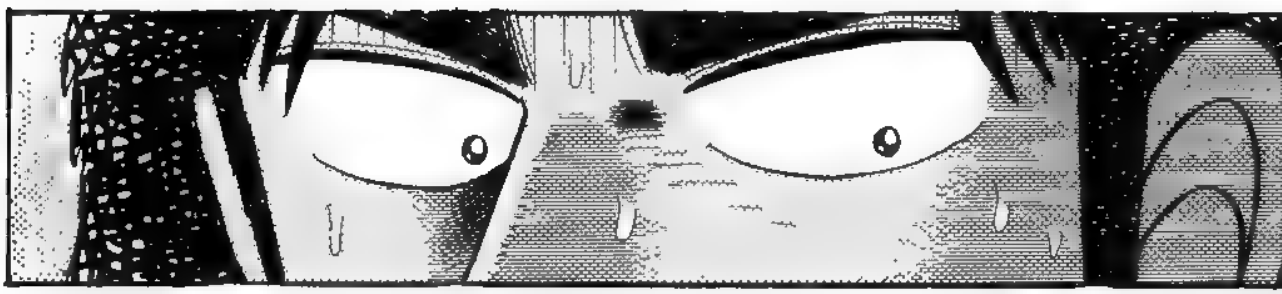
Listen ...!
...for the others' weaknesses.
Each of the three would compensate ...
Forward to...!
They quickly began to scheme.
Three weaklings gambling for survival ...
We're throwing in together.
...and one for all.
It's all for one ...
From here on out forget about number one.
We have four scissors and one paper...
As for the five cards...
That's all of our supplies ...
14 million yen, four stars...
We have a total of.
... and five cards.
...Ando's stars, and Furuhata's cards...
Right now, with my money ...

We can't have any more pointless losses...
Listen close !
No more crossing our fingers ...
... and turn it into nine stars...!
We have to use what we've got...
But now is not the time to start complaining.
The outlook doesn't look good...
Defeat is not an option...!
Use your brains.
Got it ...?
This is our last chance. It's time...
... we got smart ...!
... and relying on luck, or instinct, or other people...!
FLICK
How are we supposed to...?
But ...
...
... if we just put our heads together...
Even if we can't figure something out alone...
... I just know we'll do it...!
We're gonna have to think this through ...
Together.
...is going to take time to figure out...!
Obviously a good idea...

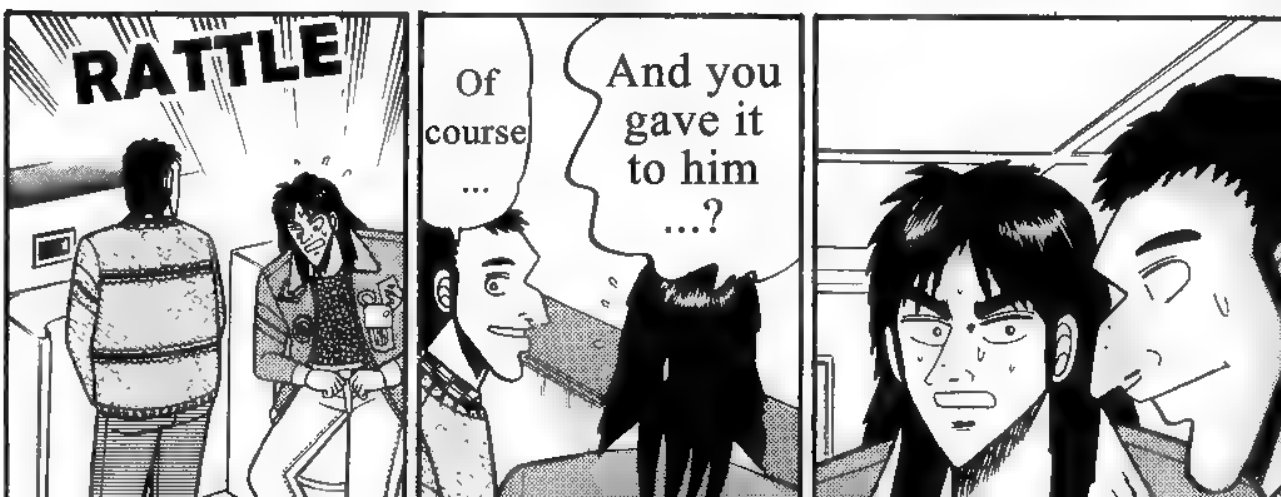
Wait... Where are you going...?
SWOOSH
Huh ...?
Now think ...!
Got it...?
Y... Yeah ...
Don't worry about me.
To taker a piss.
Eh ...?
I'll think better if I drain the hose first.
I'm feeling backed up.
SLAP
Heh ...

It is ...?
It's weird ...
Don't smile at the guy next to you in the john.
Kaiji-san...
Stop it ...!
.....
But ...
Sorry ...
I guess three heads are just better than one...
I'm really starting to feel optimistic...
Yeah.
happy...
I'm just ...
happy... somehow.
He's just being naive! We're in the exact same situation...
You say three heads, but it's a team of three losers.
... we were before.
He's hopeless...
It's good to have friends ...!
...
Yeah, maybe...

...
teaming up with such a moron ...?
I wonder if I made the right choice...

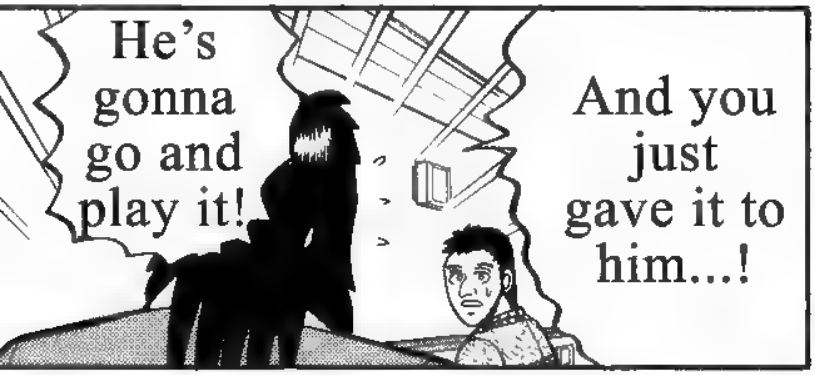


Ando asked to hold on to one of them for me.
Yeah ...
Didn't you have four cards...?
Yeah ...?
Furuhata ...


RATTLE
Of course ...
And you gave it to him ...?

Just come on...!
Where are you going ...?
Kaiji-san...
Wait ...

Are you stupid ...!?
Whaddya mean, 'find'?
Huh ...?
We gotta find Ando...!

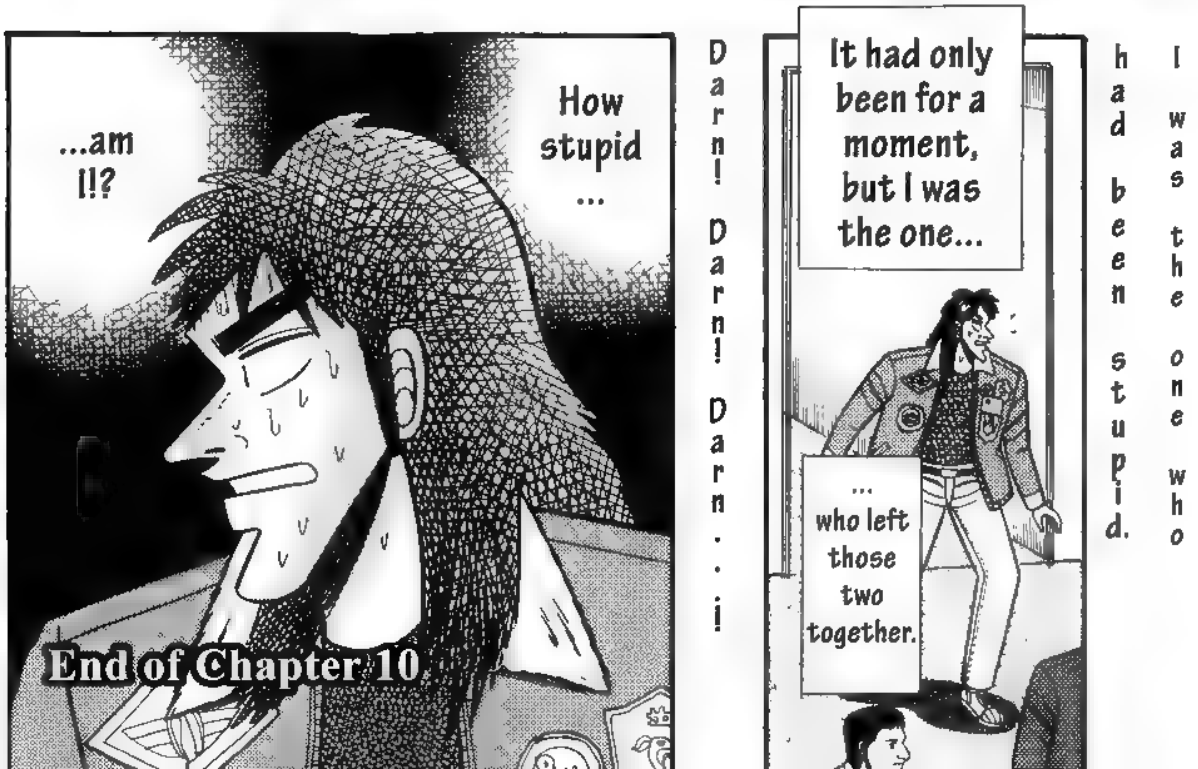

He's gonna go and play it!
And you just gave it to him...!

...do you think he's gonna bother with us...?
If he wins ...

You know what he wanted ...
Ando had two stars and zero cards.
... more than anything right now was just one more card!

All he cares about are those three stars.
Do you think he cares about being friends ...?
Do you think he'll be back ...!?

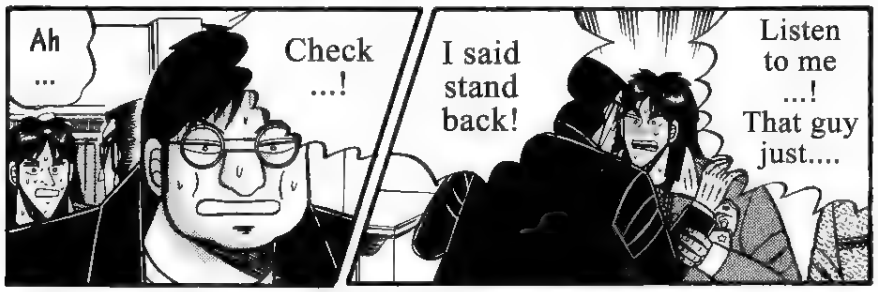
I was ready to cry...
You idiot ...!
No way ...!
Of course he'll run...!


I was the one who had been stupid.
Darn! Darn! Darn...!
It had only been for a moment, but I was the one...
... who left those two together.
How stupid ...
...am I!?
End of Chapter 10

That jerk ... Where is he...!?
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
Kaiji-san...!
Where did he go...?
Over there ...!
Ah ...!
!

How stupid...!

Idiot ...!
Chapter 11: Treason


Ah ...
Check ...!
I said stand back!
Listen to me ...! That guy just....

But ...
What's the big idea!?
Hey now!

You stupid jerk ...!
Hold on...!
Wah ...!
THUD

Which means... Which means...
...if he loses his star will be wasted

And on the other hand...
... and then he'll run away ...!
If he wins he'll have three stars...

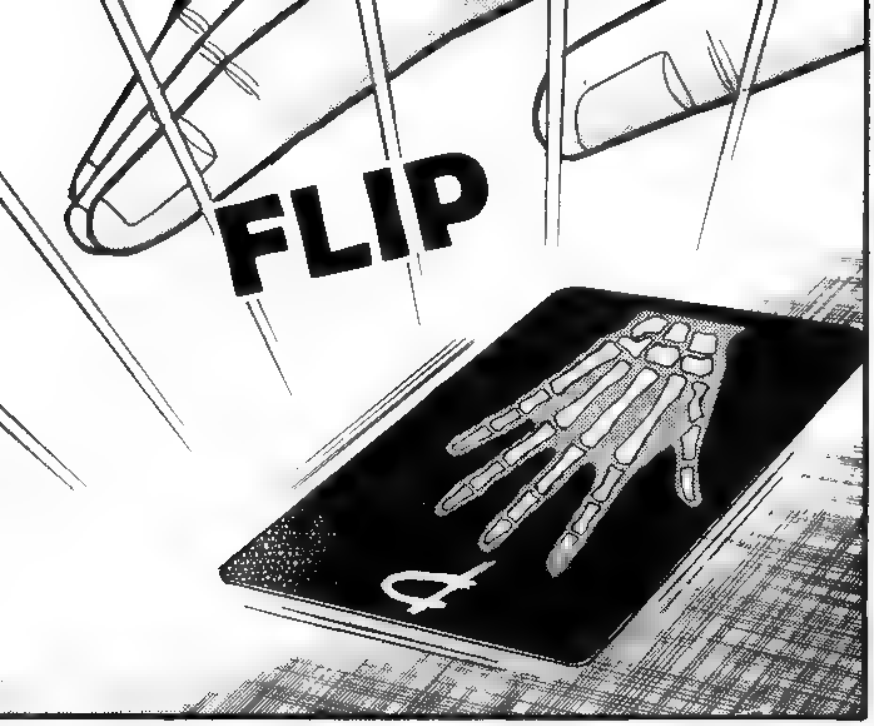
... this is bad!

But ...
Stand back ...!
No ... Listen to me...
Don't interfere with the match ...!

We need a draw!
Set ...!
If it's a draw...
...then he'll only lose a card...
...and with only two stars he won't be able to run away...!

Please God... Make it a draw ...!
Go ...!

.....
FLIP
Yes...!
We'll be fine ...!
...Two scissors makes a draw!


FLIP

Ngh
...

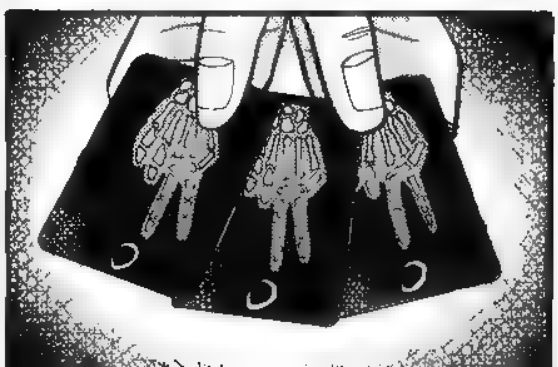
This can't be...!
What ...?

That moron walked off...
Of all the bad luck ...

Ahhh...

Huh ...!

Kaiji-san...
I can't believe it...



And he lost.
...With our only Paper card...
...
I'd add one more star to our pile...
I just thought ...
Don't lie ...!
Please ...
I'm sorry ...
He lost and came back.
Forgive me...
N-No...
If you had won you would have never talked to us again...!
Huh ...?
Let's let him fend for himself.
Kaiji-san!
That's not true...!

Ando was desperate.
I'm telling you, it's not true...
Y... You're wrong.
Traitor ...!
He's only got one star.
What good will he do us now?
Furuhata -san...!
Kaiji-san...
Please believe me...!
...he wouldn't stand a chance. He would be hopeless.
If Kaiji kicked him out of the group ...
He had one star, zero cards, and two million yen.
And while you're at it...
Stop crying... It's making me sick...
Please. Please. You have to believe me...!
Ando ...
But I promise, I didn't mean to betray you...
I'm sorry I acted on my own...
I swear ...

Eh ...?
Just now ...
Show a little respect...!
In fact, you sped the match up.
But you didn't...
... you could have stopped at any time.
...you hadn't even said check yet.
That means ...
...when I tried to stop your match...
Kaiji-san...
.....
Of that much I'm sure...
...you would have been out of here.
...a snake like you?
Who would possibly believe in...
If you had won ...

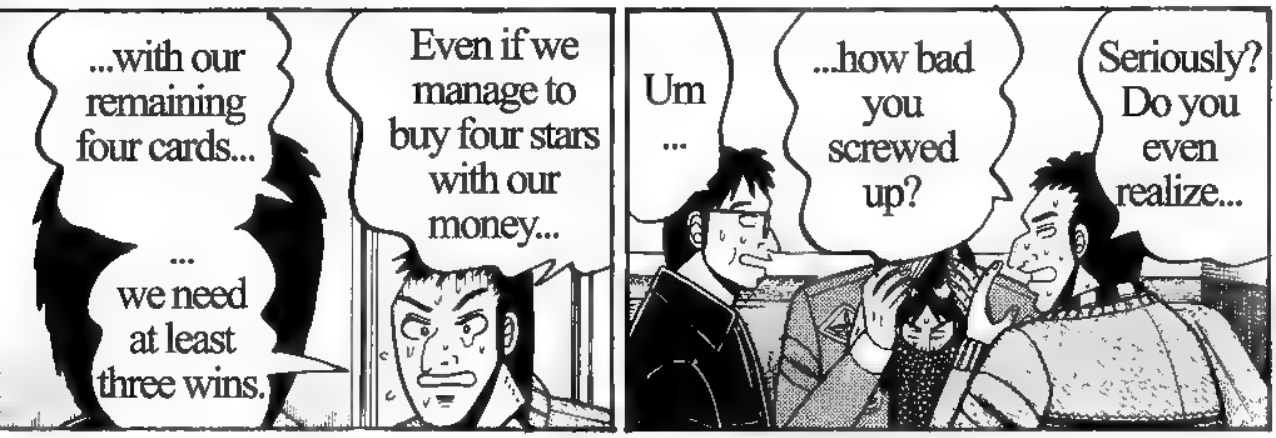
Please ...
However ...
You won't get rid of us ...so easily ...
Huh ?
Kaiji-san...!
If we cut out the bad we wouldn't be left with a team...
Right now Furuhata is angry.
All he can think about is kicking you out.
But forget about the reason...
If we kicked him out now...
...what would happen to us later?
The three of us made an oath. All for one...
How can we turn against each other...
...right from the get go like this?
When it comes down to the wire ...
...how will we be able to trust each other not to split?

This team is our greatest strength.
Our greatest asset isn't stars or cards...
Three people. Our size is our weapon.
We need him ...
I'm sorry...
...what can we expect afterwards?
If we kick him out...
It will be the end of our partnership as well. Furuhata...
Kaiji-san...
...
No matter how much I'd like to...
So we can't cut him loose...
SEOUL
Huh ...?
We.
I'll do my best...
I promise to work hard...
I promise ...
...Thank you...
Th...
PLIP
PLIP
SEOUL

Do you understand what that means?
All for one!
...and pulling stupid, childish stunts...
No more running off alone...
Got it ...?
Then, maybe, we make it outta here...
TWITCH
The three have to do this together ...
Not I. We.
WOBBLE
...do you think it can still live!?
If you cut a lion into three pieces...
A breakdown of the group ...
Man, man man...
... Man ...
...was narrowly avoided.
SHOVE
Stupid sack of worms ...!
SOB SOB SOB
You ...

...straits were as dire as they had been before.
However ...
The situation was grim.
The alliance remained ...!
TIME
Kaiji's group had few pieces on the board...
Three stars, 14 million yen, and four cards.
All four cards...
.....
...were scissors.
What should we do...? What can we do...?
It's fairly natural to let out a sigh...
Arghh ...

...our only paper...?
Why did you take...
If only Ando hadn't been such a moron...!
Argghh ....
... would tell me what to do...!
I just wish somebody ...


...with our remaining four cards...
... we need at least three wins.
Even if we manage to buy four stars with our money...
Um ...
...how bad you screwed up?
Seriously? Do you even realize...

Yeah ...
This is all your fault...! What's wrong with you...!?
All we have is scissors! There's no balance...
Don't you get it!?
We have to go three and one and we can't even choose our cards!
...we'll never get 9 stars!
We need to manage that or...

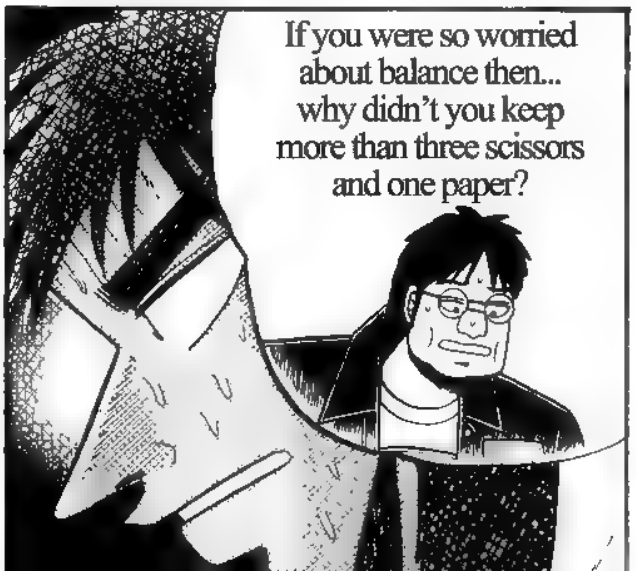
... why didn't you keep more than three scissors and one paper?
I mean, if you were so worried about balance then...
Huh ?
... that the balance is off.
It's not all my fault...
But ...

What did you just say to me...?
What did you say ...?

Huh ...?
I dare you!
Say it again...
Shhh !

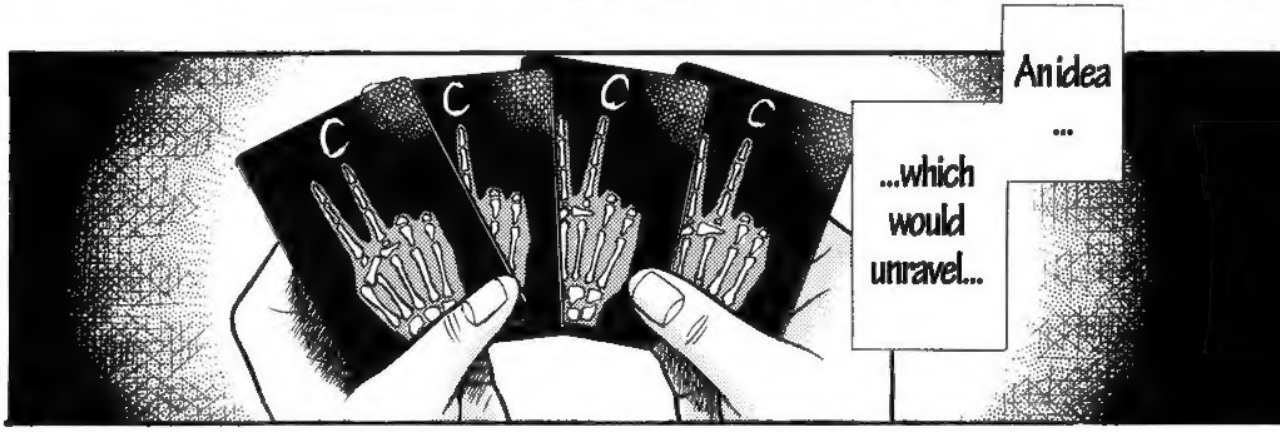
Balance...?

Balance...!



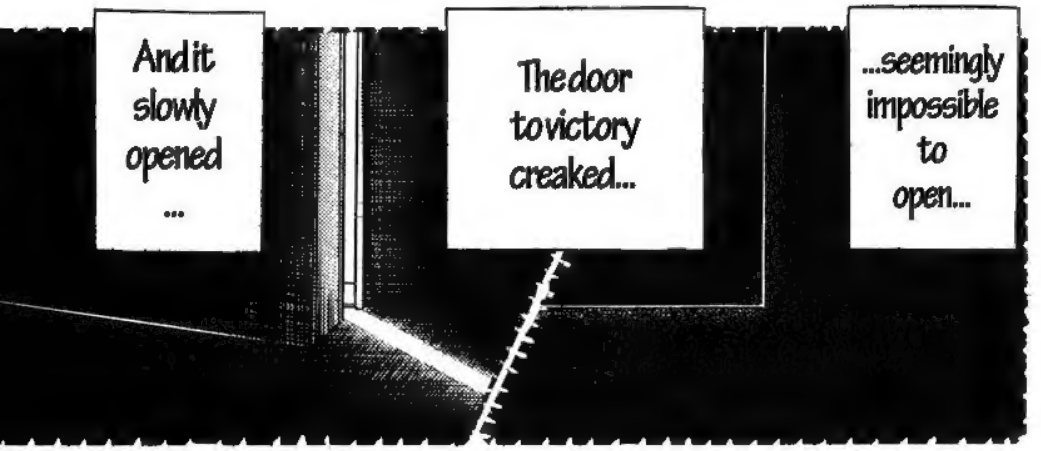
... an idea began to form.
And from that chaos ...

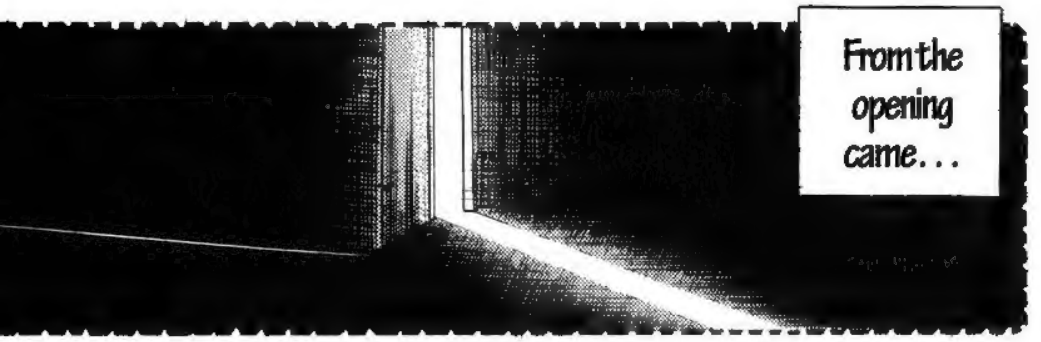
The cards had begun to fly about wildly.


An idea ...
...which would unravel...

Huh ...?
I got it...!

A h h ! !
...in a rope of reason .
...the tough knots of psychology ...



There's still a chance to win...

End of Chapter 11

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